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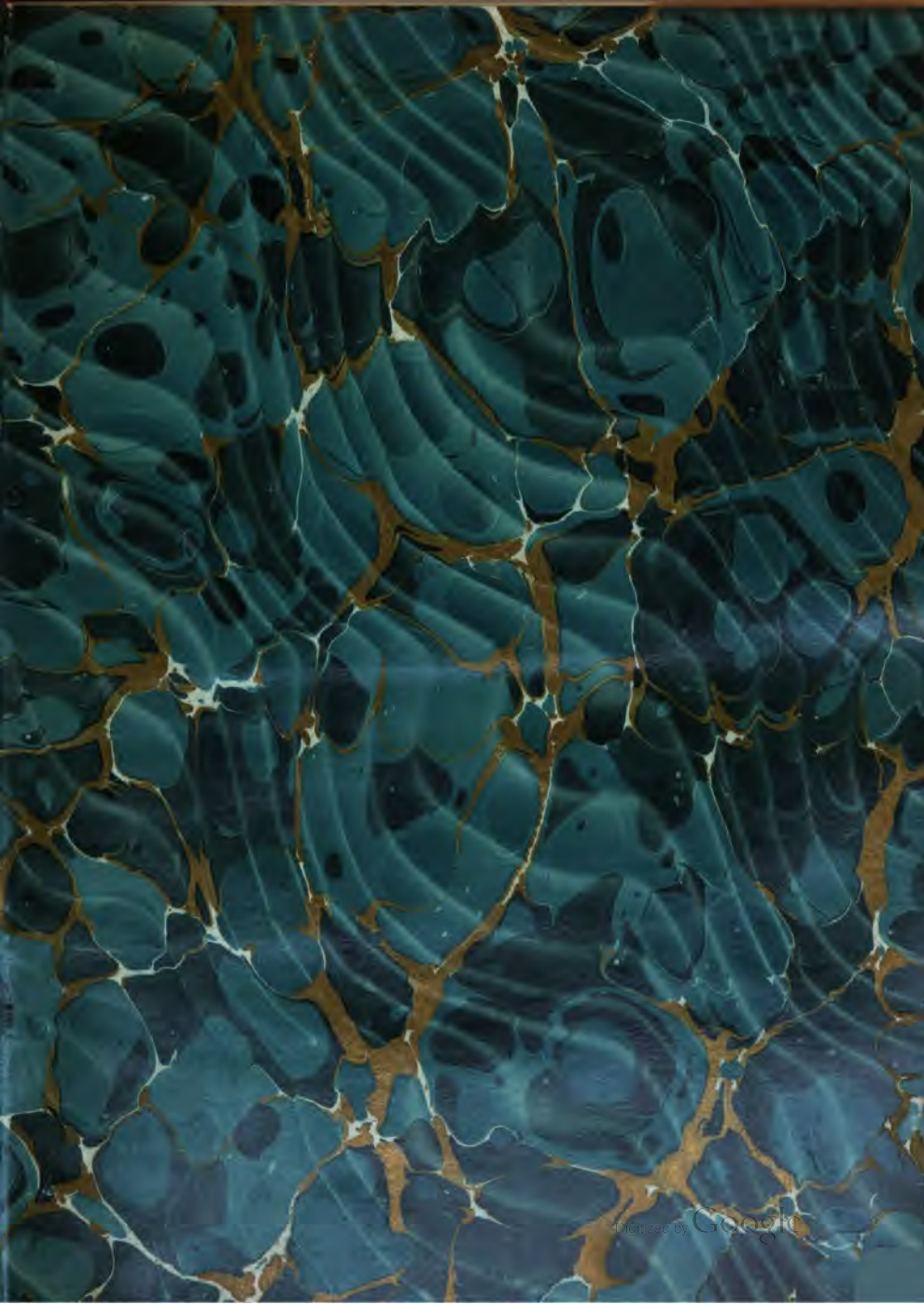
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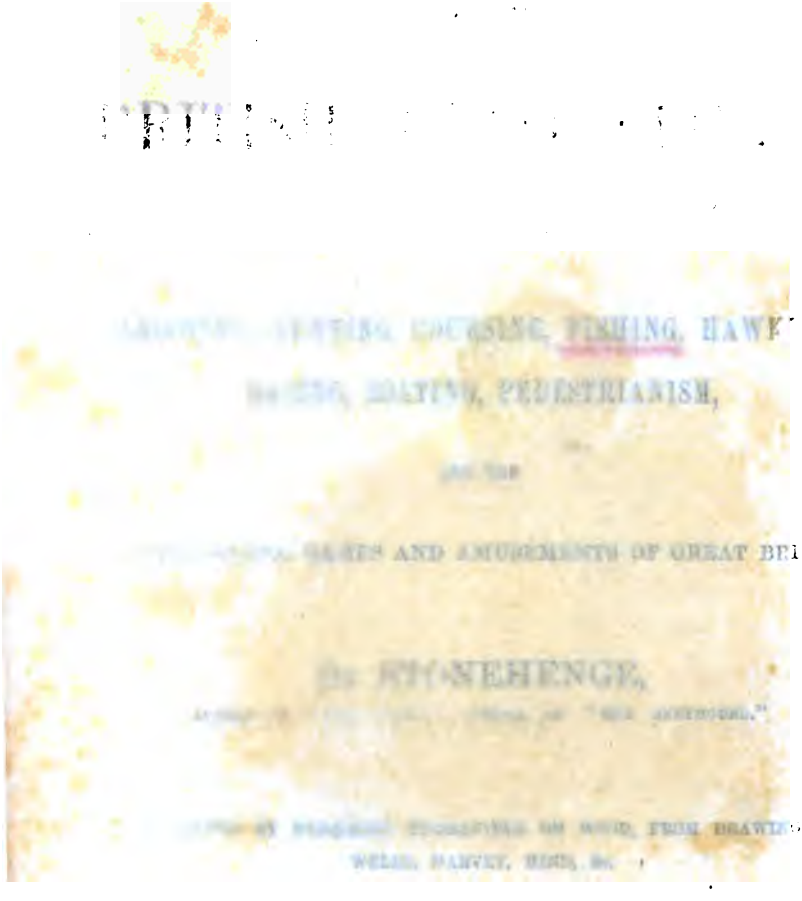

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BRITISH RURAL SPORTS:

COMPRISING

SHOOTING, HUNTING, COURSING, FISHING, HAWKING,

RACING, BOATING, PEDESTRIANISM,

AND THE

VARIOUS RURAL GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

By STONEHENGE,

EDITOR OF "THE FIELD," AUTHOR OF "THE GREYHOUND."

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD, FROM DRAWINGS BY WELLS, HARVEY, HIND, &c.

SEVENTH EDITION, ENTIRELY REVISED, WITH ADDITIONS.

LONDON:

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PREFACE

TO

THE FIRST EDITION.

For the last twenty years and upwards, it has been the amusement of my leisure hours to master the *arcana* of the several Rural Sports peculiar to Great Britain, or as many of them as came within my reach, in which pursuit I have met with great difficulties, owing chiefly to the want of treatises giving such minute instructions as would serve my purpose; for though some were then in existence, and more have since been published, which professed to go into the details of the special amusements they describe, yet they are too often defective in the very points which they ought to dilate upon, and the author's attempt to make his theme amusing has often rendered the arrangement obscure, or else his want of practice in writing has prevented him from presenting his ideas in an intelligible form. The nature of the inhabitants of these isles is sufficiently prone to the enjoyment of rural sports without any further temptation, and all that the young sportsman wants is a clear description of the habits of the animal he is pursuing, and the proper management of his dogs, or of the peculiar implements of his sport. Having myself been retarded by this deficiency in our sporting literature, I have in the following pages endeavoured to supply it, by giving the result of my experience in the shape of a Manual of British Rural Sports, embracing not only the above-mentioned details, but also a description of everything relating to the various kinds of racing adopted in this country, and of the out-door games and amusements peculiar to it. By some it may be supposed that there are already numerous cyclopædias, &c., relating to these subjects; but I believe I shall only state what is the general opinion when I assert, that there is not one which is really sufficient to enable the young sportsman to teach himself more than one or two departments of rural sports. Neither are there many special treatises which enter fully into the subject of which they profess to treat, for though some are exceedingly interesting as far as they go, yet they seldom embrace the whole of the details, but rather dilate upon some particular department. Among those which are especially useful are the various writings of "Nimrod" and "Scrutator" on *Horses and Hounds;* those of Mr. Scrope and Mr. Colquhoun on *Deer-*

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stalking; Messrs. Stoddart and "Ephemera" on *Fishing*; and the Author of *The Cricket Field*. Colonel Hawker's book on *Shooting* is now becoming somewhat behind the times, in consequence of the great change in guns and in the management of game preserves since his day; but his remarks on *Punt-shooting* are still as applicable as ever to that sport, of which, however, I do not profess to know much from practical experience, and, therefore, have referred my readers to his book for its details, as also I have done in the case of *Deer-stalking* to Mr. Scrope. In all the other sports to which I have alluded I have myself been fully initiated, not only in their general features, but in all their more secret operations, which the sportsman is often inclined to leave to his gamekeeper or other subordinate; but in the articles on *Fishing* and *Cricket*, the reader will do well to consult the pages of the works above alluded to, where the details of these sports are more fully entered into than the limits of this book will allow. No reference will be found to *Boxing*, *Cock-fighting*, or any other illegal amusement, because whatever difference of opinion there may be as to their advantages or otherwise, there ought to be none on the propriety of obeying the law of the land; and while that orders their discontinuance, no good subjects have any right to indulge in them.

The Illustrations which will be found interspersed through the following pages are most of them designed expressly for this work by Messrs. Wells and Hind, and engraved with great fidelity and skill by the Messrs. Dalziel and Mr. Hodgkin. Of the artistic effect produced by their joint labours, I must leave the public to judge; but of their truth and accuracy as copies of the subjects they profess to embody, I can speak in terms of unqualified approbation.

In order to guard against the charge of wholesale plagiarism, it may be necessary to explain that some of the chapters on the Training of Man have been recently published under another signature.

In the department of Natural History, the nomenclature adopted is that of the British Museum, by which arrangement the reader may at any time refer to that beautiful series of specimens for comparison.

With these few explanations of my object in putting together these pages, I must throw myself upon the indulgence of my readers, and trust that I may have as favourable a reception as on former occasions when I have subscribed myself

STONEHENGE.

October, 1855.

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PREFACE

TO

THE SEVENTH EDITION.

British Rural Sports first appeared in 1855; since which date six large editions have been disposed of, and the work has been admitted to be now a *desideratum* among English sportsmen. Time has, however, rendered it necessary to introduce a good many alterations in, and additions to, the text; and advantage has been taken of these circumstances to entirely reset the book in larger type, and add many new illustrations. It is hoped that this course will give *British Rural Sports* a new career of usefulness.

Since the original publication shot guns and sporting rifles have been completely remodelled, a new code of laws for the courser's use have been drawn up by a Club instituted for that purpose, the game of croquet has taken every country garden by storm, and horse as well as dog-shows have been instituted from one end of the kingdom to the other. Very little change has taken place in other departments of sport, with the exception of angling, in which a new law relating to salmon fisheries has been passed, and in game preserving, wherein the act for the prevention of poaching at night has almost put an end to the brutal conflicts between the poachers and the keepers which were formerly so common. All these changes and novelties have been, I believe, embodied in the present edition, with the addition of the pedigrees of the most celebrated horses which have appeared since 1855 to the tables first published by myself in the form now so generally adopted, so as to bring the *Manual of British Rural Sports* up to the level of the present day. The addition of a faithful series of portraits of the various breeds of British Dogs will, I trust, be acceptable to the reader, and remunerate the spirited publisher for his outlay in that department. At the time when the first edition appeared, I was unable, for want of knowledge, to describe all the different dogs known in the United Kingdom, but the institution of shows has brought together good specimens of each and all, and Mr. Wells has, I think, caught their characteristics with great fidelity.

STONEHENGE.

London, Jan. 1867.

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PART I.

THE PURSUIT OF WILD ANIMALS FOR SPORT.

BOOK V.—ANGLING.

CHAP. I.

VARIETIES OF LAKE AND RIVER FISH.

THE COMMON SALMON (*Salmo Salar*) stands at the head of British fish, as affording the best sport to the angler, and the greatest treat to the *gourmand*, its flesh being rich in flavour, and of a beautiful red colour. It is a fish of large size, sometimes attaining to the weight of fifty or even sixty pounds, and of beautiful proportions. The head is small; upper jaw longer than the lower; vomer furnished with teeth; body slightly arched on the back, which ought to be broad and muscular, and gradually tapering to the tail, which is broad, and ends in a crescentic curve. The colour of the salmon when in season is a purplish-black on the back, softening into a silvery-grey on the sides, and ending in a pure white on the belly. When out of season, these colours are represented by a dull brown on the back, reddish or pale-brown on the sides, and reddish-white on the belly. The male has several small, irregular, and copper-coloured spots on his sides. These in the female are larger, darker, and generally round or lunated. The male is also more slender. The scales are middle-sized, and are easily detached. The average length is from two and a half to three feet. Salmon feed freely on fish and mollusca, but digest their food so rapidly, that when opened their stomachs are generally found empty. Their growth is proportionate to the quantity of food which they can procure, and hence when they reach the sea they increase in size in a marvellous manner, during a very short period. The successive stages of development of this fish are now supposed to be as follows:—The fry are hatched chiefly in the spring, and early summer, and grow very slowly till they are about a year old, up to which time they are called *salmon fry*, and have several transverse bars on their sides. When these disappear, and the fish becomes uniformly silvery in colour, it is about to commence its first migration to the sea, and is called a *smoult*. After the smoult has remained in the sea a few months, it returns to its native river, if possible, and is then greatly increased in size, generally weighing two or three pounds, or even considerably more. They are now called *grilse*; and after a second time descending to the sea, where they again rapidly add to their size and weight, they attain the full dignity and name of salmon. The female salmon deposits her ova in the gravelly beds of mountain streams, where she ploughs a groove with her nose, and is assisted by the male in the whole operation. The size of the salmon does not entirely depend upon the age, but on the nature of the river in which it is bred; some rivers never produce large salmon, whilst others are remarkable for fish of great size. These points have all been recently discussed with great care and ability by Messrs. Shaw and Young, in Scotland, and by Mr. Yarrell and "Ephemera," in England,; but the above conclusions may be considered to embody the present general opinions on the subject, embracing those of all the above authorities but Mr Shaw, who still adheres to the belief that the salmon is two years old before he seeks the sea. The *fence months*, when it is illegal to take salmon, vary in the different rivers; but in most of them that time extends from the 10th of September to the 25th of January.

SALMON, or SEA-TROUT (*Salmo Trutta*).—According to Mr. Yarrell, this fish is distinguished from the common salmon by the gill-cover, which differs in the following points:—The line of union of the operculum with the sub-operculum and the inferior margin of the sub-operculum is oblique, forming a considerable angle with the axis, of the body of the first. The posterior edge of the pre-operculum is rounded, not sinuous. The teeth are also more slender

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and numerous. The flesh of this fish is very similar in flavour and colour to that of the common salmon, with which it is very generally confounded; and the two are sold indiscriminately by the fishmongers as ordinary salmon. In habits, haunts, &c., they are also alike.

THE BULL TROUT, SEWEN, OR WHITLING (*Salmo Eriox*), is known from the two preceding varieties or species, according, again, to our chief authority, Mr. Yarrell, by the gill-cover, which in the bull-trout presents the line of union of the sub-operculum oblique, forming a considerable angle with the axis of the body of the fish. The teeth are longer and stronger than those of the salmon and sea-trout, and the tail is square. This variety is found in the Tweed, in several of the rivers of Wales, and in Devonshire and Cornwall. Its weight is usually from twelve to sixteen pounds. It is a bold fish, affording good sport to the angler. Its flesh is much paler than the two first described, and not of such high flavour.

THE PARR (*Salmo Salmulus*) is decidedly considered by Mr. Young to be a distinct variety of the *Salmonidæ*, and not, as was at one time supposed, the young of the common salmon, or sea-trout. Mr. Young says that this is clear, because parr are very commonly met with at a time when the young fry of the salmon are all gone off to the sea; but the other side of the argument is supported by the assertion, that as salmon spawn at very late as well as early periods of the year, so *all* their fry are not at any one time at sea. The arguments, however, in favour of Mr. Young's side of the question appear to preponderate, as there seems to be a considerable difference in the shape of the head of the two fish; and in some cases parr are found in rivers which are never frequented by salmon. The parr is a lively little fish, and will take the fly with great eagerness. Except in the form of the head the parr closely resembles the fry of the salmon.

THE COMMON TROUT (*Salmo Fario*) is distinguished by the length of the lower jaw being greater than that of the upper. It weighs from half a pound to four or five, or even, in rare cases, up to eight pounds; and its ordinary length is from ten to eighteen or twenty inches. In shape it is not quite so elegant as the salmon, but it is, nevertheless, a very beautiful fish. The snout is more blunt, and the jaws are thickly supplied with teeth, inclining inwards, and very sharp. In colour it is of a pale yellowish-grey, darker on the back, and nearly white on the belly. It is marked on the sides with several distinct round spots of a bright red colour, each surrounded by a halo of pale grey; occasionally a black spot occurs, especially on the fins. These are of a purplish-brown colour, except the ventrals, which have a reddish tinge. Trout vary so much in different rivers, that no one description will minutely apply to all, but the above will give the general characteristics of the species. The trout feeds like the salmon, and in habits resembles that fish in all respects but the migration to the sea. He is generally found in swift and gravelly streams, and rejects those of an opposite character, though he is occasionally to be met with there, in consequence of the artificial and compulsory interference of man. The spawn is deposited in the same way as that of the salmon, but as the young do not migrate their successive changes and growth cannot be so clearly made out. The spawning time begins in September, in some few cases, but it is not commonly in full operation till October or November, after which it may be said to be completed. The trout is in full season from March to July; but the time varies in different rivers so much, that it is impossible to lay down any decided rule. When in high perfection, its spots are peculiarly brilliant and distinct; the head is small, the body being plump and thick, and the belly silvery.

THE GREAT LAKE-TROUT (*Salmo Ferox*).—Mr. Yarrell defines this magnificent fish by its proportions, which he says are as follows:—The head is to the body as 1 to 4½, depth of body to length 1 to 4; teeth large, strong, and numerous, and in five lines; it reaches nearly the same proportions as the salmon, from which it differs in not migrating to the sea. The flesh is less highly flavoured, and of a much paler colour.

THE CHAR (*Salmo Umbla*) is only found in a few of our northern lakes, and in those of Ireland. Several varieties are known, as the *silver char*, the *gelt char*, the *red char*, and the *case char*, according to the peculiar shade of the colour. It is a beautiful fish, but it is not clearly described, and authors vary as to the peculiarities of its colour and formation.

THE GRAYLING (*Thymallus Vulgaris*) is found only in certain streams, and particularly those descending from granite mountains. It is a very elegant fish, of middle size, seldom exceeding fifteen or sixteen inches, and slender in proportion. The head is small; upper jaw the

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longer of the two; teeth small, and spread over the roof of the mouth; the colour of the back varies from a blackish-green to blue, gradually shading into a silvery-grey towards the belly. When first taken, there are several black spots on the back, and some iridescent patches of gold colour on the sides; this appearance rapidly fades, and the general colours soon sober down. The scales are proportionally large. Sometimes, though rarely, the weight is greater than that given above, and in some few cases, graylings have been taken of four or five pounds weight. This is a very bold fish after the fly, but it does not afford such good play when hooked as the salmon tribe. The season is from September to March, after which they begin to spawn.

The Gwiniad (*Coregonus Pennantii*), found in the lakes of Scotland and Ireland and in those of Cumberland, the Powan (*Coregonus Clupeoides*), found only in Loch Lomond and one or two other Scotch lakes, the Vendace (*Coregonus Albula*), found also in the Scotch lakes, and the Pollan (*Coregonus Pollan*), found in Lough Neagh, in Ireland, are four closely-allied lake-fish which somewhat resemble the *Salmonidæ*, but have prolonged snouts, resembling the herring. Hence, the first has been called the fresh-water herring. They none of them afford sport for the angler, and are only taken with the net.

The Pike, or Jack (*Esox Lucius*).—This voracious fish is met with in the gently-flowing rivers and ponds of Great Britain, and is called a pike when above four or five pounds in weight, and a jack if of less than that size. It is a very ugly-looking fish, the head large, the jaws long and savage-looking, and armed with several hundred teeth; the tail is lunated; the colour is a pale olive-grey, becoming deeper on the back, and marked on the sides with several yellowish spots or patches. Sometimes the pike reaches an enormous size, instances having been known in which it was taken more than three feet in length. The food of the pike consists of fish, frogs, rats, the young of waterfowl, or, in fact, anything in the shape of animal food. They spawn in March and April, among the weeds of their favourite haunts. Like all other fish, they are only in high season for the few months before this process is commenced; the flesh is white, and of a good flavour, resembling the haddock.

The Bream (*Abramis Brama*) is more like a flat-fish than any other of the fresh-water fish except the flounder. It is very narrow across the back, which, as well as the belly is much arched, forming altogether almost an oval. It frequents still water like the pike, and is often found in the same rivers and ponds as that shark in miniature. The head is very small, with a pointed snout, small mouth, and no teeth. The colour is a bluish iron-grey on the back, inclining to white on the belly. The bream is rarely above one pound and a half in weight, and is not highly prized for the table, though, when stuffed and roasted like a pike, it is not to be despised.

The Chub (*Leuciscus Cephalus*). — This fish has various names in the different counties of England, where it is also called the *chevin* and *skelly*. It is a powerful fish, but very timid in its nature, and retreats to the deepest holes of the river when there is the slightest appearance of motion in the neighbourhood of its own body. In weight it is from one to four pounds. It is a short, thick, and high-backed fish, with large scales; head and back of a greenish-brown; sides, silvery brown, approaching to yellow in the summer; belly, white; pectoral fins, yellow; anal, red; tail forked, and of a brownish colour. The chub spawns in April, and very soon recovers from that process, being again in season in June. It frequents deep rivers running through alluvial districts, and lives chiefly upon worms.

The Roach, or Braise (*Leuciscus Rutilus*), inhabits the same kind of rivers as the chub, and is a gregarious fish. It has a small, round, leathery mouth, and is provided with a circle of teeth placed in the throat. The roach is as deep, but not so thick as the chub; scales large, and of a pale golden tinge approaching to brown on the back; fins red, as is also the iris.

The Dace, or Dare (*Leuciscus Leuciscus*) is also a gregarious fish. The head is small; body slender; tail forked; colour dusky on the back, varied with patches of pale olive-green; sides and belly, silvery; fins reddish, but not so much so as the roach. It is about nine or ten inches long. Its haunts are unlike those of the roach and chub, inasmuch as it prefers swift gravelly streams, but selects those which are thickly infested with weeds. It is a fish very generally spread over England, but is not highly esteemed either by the angler or for the table.

The Graining (*Leuciscus Lancastriensis*) occurs only in the Mersey. It is merely a variety of the common dace.

The Rudd, or Red-Eye, (*Leuciscus Erythrophthalmus*), is a very rare fish, occasionally found in the Thames and the sea, and in some of the ornamental waters of our

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southern parks. There is a great dispute among naturalists as to its characteristics. It is a middle-sized fish, rather more than a foot in length, with a deep and thick body; head small; iris, yellow; large scales; colour somewhat like the dace, but the sides and belly are of a more golden hue.

THE AZURINE (*Leuciscus Cæruleus*) is another fish only found in Lancashire; it resembles the roach in shape, but is of a dull-blue colour, and is called the blue-roach in the county where it is found.

THE BLEAK, OR BLICK (*Leuciscus Alburnus*).—This lively little fish is constantly seen in large shoals near the surface of every still-flowing river. It is seldom more than four or five inches long. Head small and neat; eyes prominent, with a patch of blood-colour below; back, olive-green; sides and belly, silvery; scales large; fins, colourless, and very transparent; tail forked.

THE MINNOW (*Leuciscus Phoxinus*).—This fish, likewise called the *pink* and *mennow*, is to be met with in most of our clear brooks, which it prefers to larger and stiller rivers. It is gregarious, and is in the habit of retreating to the mud and weeds in the winter months. The colour varies much in different localities, from blue to green on the back, and from white to red on the belly. Sometimes it is of a pearly white, which is a colour much prized when the fish is wanted as a bait, and sometimes of a yellow cast. It is chiefly sought after for the purpose of using it as a lure for the trout, salmon, and pike.

THE LOACH, OR GROUNDLING (*Cobitis Barbatula*), is unlike the last described fish in being nearly of the same size throughout its length. It has a compressed head, furnished with a well-marked beard composed of six tufts. It is about three or four inches in length, of a dusky-brown colour. It also is only used as a bait; but for this purpose it is not equal to the minnow, bleak, or gudgeon.

THE COMMON CARP (*Cyprinus Carpio*), is the type of a family which have all a small mouth without teeth, but possessing a bony apparatus in the throat as a substitute. They have only one dorsal fin. The common carp is not a native of Great Britain, but was introduced by the monks to serve the purposes of the table during their fasts. In length it is usually from one foot to one foot six inches. The back is arched and thick; colour yellowish, approaching to brown over the back, and to white under the belly. The mouth has a short beard on each side, both above and below; on the sides are some blackish specks; fins, brown; tail, brown, and forked. Carp feed on worms and insects, and are very prolific, living also to a great age. They are a very wary and cautious fish, and very uncertain in appetite, being sometimes ready to take a bait, and at others obstinately refusing every temptation. The *crucian* appears to be only a variety of the common carp.

THE BARBEL (*Barbus Barbus*), like the carp, has a beard, which has given its name to this fish. This beard consists of four distinct prolongations; two on each side of a very prominent upper lip. The colour of the fish is a silvery-grey, becoming darker on the back, and white on the belly. Scales middle-sized, and rounded; dorsal fin small, and of a blueish-brown; other fins brown, tipped with yellow; tail forked, and of a purplish-brown. They frequent deep but rapid rivers, and are gregarious, feeding on insects and worms. They are not so wary as the carp, and afford good sport to the bottom-fisher.

THE TENCH (*Tinca vulgaris*), like the carp, has been introduced from abroad, for the purpose of supplying the tables of the Roman Catholic population of Great Britain. It thrives in stagnant or slowly-changing ponds, especially those made in loamy or rich soils. It is a thick fish, resembling the carp in shape, and having a small thin beard at each corner of its mouth. Like the carp, it has no teeth. Gill-covers, bright yellow; colour of the body, deep olive, with a tint of gold; scales small, thin, and covered with a thick viscid slime; fins of a dark brownish-purple; tail square. Tench spawn in the spring among the weeds, and the young grow rapidly, so that a pond is soon stocked with these fish, which are of a very superior flavour to the carp.

THE GUDGEON (*Gobio Fluviatilis*), though small, is highly prized from its good flavour, and affording sport to the young angler. It is gregarious, and is taken in immense numbers in the neighbourhood of London. Gudgeon rarely come to the surface, but frequent the bottoms of rapid rivers and brooks, preferring moderately shallow water with a gravelly bottom. This fish has a small beard on the upper lip. It is about five or six inches in length, with a round body and a thick head. Colour, pale-brown on the back, and reddish-white on the belly; fins slightly tinged with reddish-yellow; the dorsal fin and tail are spotted with black.

THE PERCH (*Perca Fluviatilis*) is a very handsome fish, of medium size. Body deep, with a high-arched back; head small, with sharp teeth in the jaws and the roof of the mouth. The edges of the gill-covers are

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serrated, with a spine on the lower part. Colours as follows:—Back, deep olive-green, with broad black bars, gradually becoming white towards the belly; ventral and anal fins of a rich scarlet, as is also the tail, though not so distinctly of that colour. The dorsal fin is furnished with spinous prolongations, so sharp that it can scarcely be handled with impunity by the angler. It thrives best in large tidal rivers, where it seeks the point at which the water is usually brackish, and grows there to an extent never seen elsewhere. In stagnant ponds it will live, but does not thrive. It is a slow-growing fish, requiring many years to arrive at its full size. The perch spawns in the months of March and April. It is a gregarious fish, and is very tenacious of life.

THE RUFFE, OR POPE (*Gymnocephalus Cernua*), is generally considered as a variety of the perch, which it differs from in colour, being of a dusky olive, with black spots. In its generic and anatomical arrangements, however, it varies so much as to be classed under a different subdivision of the fishes found in Great Britain. It is very abundant in the Thames.

THE STICKLEBACK (*Gasterosteus Aculeatus, G. Spinulosus, and G. Pungitius*).—These three varieties of the smallest fish known in Great Britain differ from one another only in size, and in the number of the spines which are attached to the scales of the sides, but which are more or less excitable at pleasure. The largest of them, which heads the above list, is two inches and a half long, whilst the smallest is not much more than an inch and a half. They are great devourers of the young fry of all fish, and are therefore destroyed as far as possible by the guardians of the best rivers. Without their spines they form good baits for trout and pike.

THE BULLHEAD (*Cottus Gobio*) is known by the enormous size of its head, which is out of all proportion to its body. It is a small fish, and conceals itself under stones, waiting there for its prey, and at the same time saving itself from the attacks of larger fish.

THE FLOUNDER (*Platessa Flesus*) is met with in the Thames in great numbers, and affords pretty good sport to the angler in that river, as well as most others near their mouths. It is a flat-fish of moderate size, seldom reaching to more than two pounds in weight. The upper part is of a dirty brown, with a few dusky-yellow spots; belly, white. It has a row of sharp small spines surrounding the body, and between it and the fins, by which it may be distinguished from other flat-fish.

THE SHARP-NOSED EEL (*Anguilla Acutirostris*), the BROAD-NOSED EEL (*A. Latirostris*), and the SNIG-EEL (*A. Mediorostris*) are the three varieties of the common eel known in Great Britain. They vary only, as their distinctive names imply, in the shape of their noses. In length they are from one to three feet; colour, on the back sometimes a dark-olive brown, at others light-brown; belly, always white and silvery, especially in the silver-eel, a variety peculiar to some rivers. Head flat, and jaws more or less oblongated, but the lower jaw always the longer; eyes very near the mouth, and small, with a reddish iris; gill-opening set far back, and close to the temporal fin. The eel is now ascertained to spawn in the sea, for which purpose it descends from its usual haunts and visits the ocean. It has the power of overcoming all obstacles, because it can leave the water, and, by its serpent-like form, travel over or round any flood-gate or mill-dam in its course, whether up or down stream. It generally chooses dark stormy nights for this purpose; and its migration downwards takes place in the months of August, September, and October, during which time eels are taken in large numbers by the millers throughout the kingdom, who set their nets at the chief water-courses. Eels are generally considered to be viviparous, but they seem, like many other animals, sometimes to produce their *ova* already hatched, and at others to eject them with their contents still in an embryo state. The young first appear on the coasts in March and April, and are then seen in enormous quantities. They soon ascend the rivers, and by various devices they surmount the flood-gates, &c., which impede the progress of other fish; sometimes the millers put straw-ropes for this purpose, up which the young eels swarm in myriads. While ascending the larger rivers they may be seen in a double column, one close to each bank, swimming with great power and speed. These young eels are from half an inch to an inch in length. The eel is a very voracious fish, and will feed upon all kinds of garbage, and upon small fish, frogs, rats, &c.; it may be said to be the great scavenger of our rivers. Eels feed chiefly by night, and they lie chiefly by day in the deep pools of rivers, or under stones or stumps of trees, or among the weeds, or other impediments to the current of water, which they seem in all cases to dislike.

THE LAMPREY AND LAMPERN (*Lampetra*

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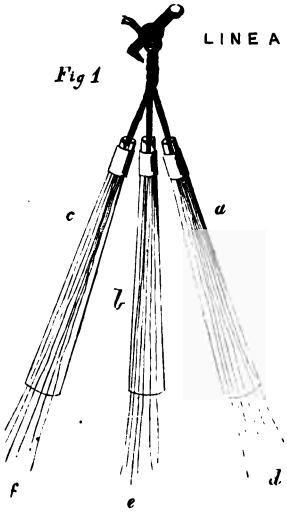
LINE AND REELS

Fig 1



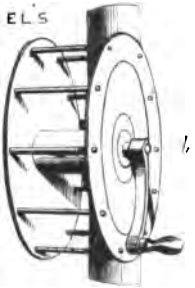


Fig 2

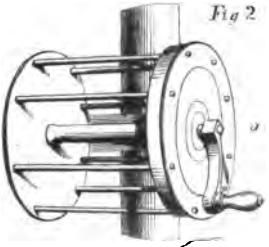
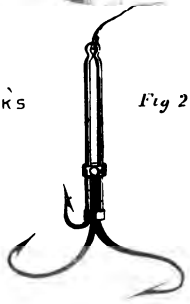


Fig 1

SNAP HOOKS

Fig 2



FISHING APPARATUS. P. 265.

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Fluviatilis and L. Planeri) are entirely unfitted for giving sport of any kind, and are taken with traps for the purposes of the table only.

CHAPTER II.

APPARATUS USED IN FISHING.

Sect 1.—The Line, Reel, and Hook.

This, which is the essential part of all fishing-tackle, consists of a reel-line, varying in length, strength, and size, according to the nature of the fish which is sought after; of a reel to wind this upon, also varying in accordance with the line; and of a smaller and finer foot-length attached to the line, which is usually composed of silkworm-gut, hair, or gimp, and is armed with one or more hooks, variously baited.

Reel-Lines are made of horse-hair (from the tail), of silk, or silk and hair mixed, of Indian-weed, and of silkworm gut. It is usual for the amateur fisherman to purchase these lines, which are made by a small machine, but sometimes the angler prefers making them himself, and if at all handy, he may do this with great advantage by the following mode, which is much superior to the twisting-machine, because it admits of the introduction of fresh hair with much greater facility.

In Making the horse-hair line, first procure a quantity of good hair, which may be bought at the shops; but if it can be obtained from a good *young* chestnut horse with a flaxen-tail so much the better. When such a horse is docked, a considerable portion of his tail with the hair attached is removed, and that is the very best for the present purpose. A grey horse with a silver mane will give white hair, which requires staining, but the colour of the flaxen mane is as good as any art can give. Young hair is twice as strong as the milk-white hair, which is peculiar to old horses. Next procure three pieces of strong goose-quill, each about half an inch long, and fit loosely into them three pieces of deal three or four inches long; then divide your hair intended for your line into three equal portions; thus, if your line is to be of eighteen hairs altogether, then let each of your quills receive six, leaving about four inches projecting; then push in the sticks gently, and tie the loose ends together, as shown in the annexed woodcut (*fig.* 1). The knot formed by the union of the three divisions is to be attached to some fixed object by a pin; then take out each stick, one after the other, and pass the quill up to within an inch of the knot, replace the stick, and take two of them in the left hand. The remaining stick is to be gently twisted from right to left, and when sufficiently so, passed over the other two also from right to left, when it should be grasped by the left hand, gently keeping up a slight strain upon the knot. At this time the three are in the position shown in the woodcut; then let the angler take hold of *a d*, draw it towards him about a quarter of an inch, allowing the hair to slip through the space between quill and wood; twist it as before, and pass it over to the left. Repeat this with *b e*, and then with *c f*, when *a b* will again occupy the same position as at first. By carrying on this process a line may soon be turned out of great strength, and of any degree of tightness of twist; but if too tight, it will be liable to be entangled, or to *kink*, as it is generally called. As soon as the angler has mastered this part of the process, and has twisted a few inches of line, he must divide the remaining length of his hair into the same number of portions as he has hairs in his line, and cut off one hair at each of these lengths, so that he may splice his line regularly throughout its whole length. As soon as one of these cut ends appears loose above the head of the quill, the stick must be removed, and another hair of full length inserted and twisted in with the rest, and so on with every succeeding break. In this way the line appears, when finished, to be furnished with a series of projecting hairs, but these may be removed without danger with a knife, or scissors, or a taper, previously soaking the whole line for twenty-four hours in water. The line may also be gradually reduced in size at the pleasure of the maker, by omitting to insert fresh hairs. By this mode all links and joints are avoided, and the line is everywhere within one hair of the full strength with which it would be furnished if joined in links in the ordinary way.

Silk and Hair Mixed Lines are those usually sold, and they are the best for all purposes, because they wind so well on the

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reel, and are strong and durable. They are made of all lengths, and may be purchased of any of the tackle-makers. INDIAN WEED OR GRASS LINES are also sometimes used, but they do not stand sudden jars, being inclined to snap. A PLAITED SILK LINE is now made without hair, and is very generally adopted. It is much more free from kinking or ravelling than the other lines.

THE REEL is generally used by the angler, partly for the convenience of carrying the line safely, but chiefly in order to allow of rapid extension or drawing in of the line which is wound upon it. Multiplying-reels, in which, by the introduction of machinery, the barrel is made to travel several times to the single revolution of the handle, were formerly much used, but they are now in great measure replaced by the more simple plan of having a large barrel or drum on which to wind the line, instead of a small central spindle. The difference will be seen at once by reference to the woodcut, in which a view of both reels is given (*fig.* 2); *a* being the multiplying reel, and *b* the simple one with a large spindle. By the use of this large drum even a salmon line may be taken in as rapidly as can be desired, and the line lies much more evenly and free from any kind of hitch, with the great advantage that it will give off the line readily to the end.

THE FOOT-LENGTH, or the extreme portion of the line, is composed of finer materials than the reel-line, in order to escape the eye of the fish. It is generally made of pieces of gut, knotted together, and altogether comprising a length of from three to eight feet. Sometimes it is of single gut throughout, but generally of two or three thicknesses of twisted-gut at the end next the line, then of two, and finally of one piece of gut. This material is the produce of the silkworm, and is the unspun substance intended for silk, but made into gut instead by the art of man. The silkworm, just before spinning, is broken in two by the hands of the gut-maker, who, by drawing the pieces apart, obtains gut of any fineness, according to the length to which he pulls it. Considerable knack is required to make it uniformly round and free from weak places, which should be searched for carefully in selecting gut for the single lengths. Horsehair is sometimes used for this purpose, and in some instances gimp, consisting of silk protected by wire. All these various sorts will be treated of under the respective kinds of fishing in which they are employed.

HOOKS are pieces of bent steel-wire, barbed at the point, and of various sizes and forms. They are made according to the respective patterns which are fancied by the English, Scotch, and Irish makers. The round-bend hook is that which is most used in England, the Limerick pattern being chiefly in vogue in Ireland, and the Scotch anglers using some of them the former and others the latter; while many Scotchmen use what is called the sneckbend, differing slightly from both of the above, in being made of a more square shape. The round-bend hook is numbered from 1, the largest salmon size, to 14, the smallest midge. The best Irish hooks, made by Phillips of Dublin, are classed in a different way: F E is intended for the smallest trouting-fly; F, the next; then F F; then, again F F F. After this comes C and C C; then B and B B. The C's and B's have intermediate or half numbers, and above B B the hooks for salmon are known by numbers, beginning with B B, which corresponds with 9, and going on regularly up to No. 1.

Various articles are required for uniting these portions of the line—viz., silk of different degrees of strength, cobbler's wax, spirit varnish, and small scissors, &c.

THE JOINTS used are—first, *whipping*; second, *knotting*. Whipping consists in drawing successive circles of silk, well waxed, tightly around the two objects laid in apposition; as, for instance, two portions of the line, or the line and hook. This is finished off by slipping the end of the silk through the last circle and drawing tight, and, if necessary, repeating the operation again and again; this is called the half-hitch. Knotting is effected by several modes, the most common of which is the water-knot, which is managed as follows:—Lay the two pieces of gut or hair together, one overlapping the other three inches or more, then hold one end in the left hand and form a simple slip-knot upon it, turn the other end to the right and do the same thing, then draw the two together and the knot is complete; by whipping with fine waxed silk this knot is made still more firm. The advantage of this knot is that it will never give way to a direct pull, and yet may always be undone without difficulty.

THE ACCESSORIES to the line are the float and the shot or leads. These are used in bottom-fishing only, and are intended to keep the hook at a certain distance from the bottom. The float is either of quill or cork, and is fixed upon the line by a ring at one end and a sliding-quill at the other.

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The shot are partially split and then brought together again upon the line. In this way, by plumbing the depth of the water, and adjusting the float so as to keep the bait at a certain depth, the object of the bottom-fisher is attained.

BOX-SWIVELS AND HOOK-SWIVELS may be readily understood from their name, and are used in spinning-tackle, in order to prevent the line from twisting,

GIMP is composed of silk or other material strong enough to resist any straining force applied to it, and protected from the teeth of the fish, or from sharp stones, by fine brass wire neatly wound round. It is made of various sizes and strength.

SECT. 2.—THE ROD.

THE ROD is the machine with which the line is conveyed to the place where the fish is the most likely to take it, and with which the various manœuvres prior to his capture are effected. It is made of several pieces united by joints, and these are of varying size, length, and materials, according to the kind of fishing to which it is to be applied. It is also sold to suit all purposes in one by changing the top joints, and it is then called a general rod; but though this may suit the pedestrian tourist who wishes to avoid carrying more than one rod, yet it interferes a good deal with the efficiency of both, and especially does it fail as a fly-rod. It is, however, well enough suited to the beginner. The extra pieces are contained in the butt, which is hollowed out to receive them. The specific varieties of rods will come under consideration in each chapter devoted to the particular sport for which they are intended, but I may enumerate them here as the general rod, the trolling rod, the trout fly-fishing rod, and the salmon fly-fishing rod. The materials of which these are composed are ash, hickory, lancewood, and cane, which are united together by brass ferrules. Whalebone is also sometimes used in the top joints of fly-rods; but these are made so much better by the tackle-maker than by the amateur, that it is useless to go into the description of their manufacture. Mr. Blacker, of Dean-street, Soho, or Mr. Farlow of the Strand, will serve the young angler with rods in every variety, and of the very best quality; and if he finds that he cannot afford their prices, which are as low as a good rod can be made for, he can procure plenty at the cheap shops which will answer his purpose much better than any of home manufacture.

SECT. 3.—NATURAL AND GROUND-BAITS.

THE EARTH-WORM is the most primitive and simple of all baits, and is that which is generally first used by the juvenile angler, because it is easily obtained, and applied without difficulty. There are several varieties of these worms, known to anglers as the *dew-worm*, or *lob-worm*, the *marsh-worm*, the *tagtail*, the *brandling*, and the *red-worm*.

THE DEW-WORM, or large garden-worm, is of considerable size, varying from six to twelve inches in length when extended. The tail tapers somewhat, but in the squirrel-tailed variety it is flattened. In colour this worm is of a dull brick-red, approaching to a crimson towards the head. These worms are obtained either by digging, or by searching for them quietly at night with a candle and lantern on the lawns or paths of the garden. In dry weather they are always out when the dew is falling.

THE MARSH-WORM, OR BLUE-HEAD, is found in moist and undrained localities, where they may be obtained with a candle and lantern in large numbers during the fine summer nights. In colour they are of a light dirty or brownish-purple. These worms should be kept in damp moss with a little earth mixed with it. A variety of this worm found in land only partially marshy, is called in Scotland the BLACK-HEAD or BUTTON-WORM, and is more tough, and therefore better calculated for standing the rough treatment which it must undergo in swift and wide streams. It is an excellent bait for trout.

THE TAGTAIL is common in good strong clays, which are well manured for turnips, mangold-wurzel, &c. It is a small worm, of about two or three inches in length. Head larger, and of a deeper blue than the body, which is a dingy-red; tail, yellowish.

THE BRANDLING is a small worm found in artificial composts, and in rotten tan, or other decaying vegetable matter, of a dirty-red colour, approaching to brown.

THE RED-WORM is about the same size as the brandling, which it resembles in all respects but colour, that being in the red-worm exactly what its name implies. It is found in the banks of ditches and sewers. The *gilt-tail* is a variety of this worm, but larger, and of a paler colour towards the tail.

ALL THESE WORMS SHOULD BE SCOURED, a process which consists in starving them, by placing them in damp moss, neither too wet nor too dry. The worms here are not only deprived of their usual food, but in their efforts to escape they mechanically compress their bodies between the fibres of

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the moss, and in that way completely empty themselves of their fæcal contents. Before putting them in the moss, Mr. Stoddart recommends that worms should be placed in water for a few minutes, after which they should be suffered to crawl over a dry board, in order still further to cleanse their skins. They may then be transferred to the moss, as described above. The worms should be examined from day to day, and those which are unhealthy or injured should be removed. When the worms are quite sufficiently scoured, they should be stored for use. Three or four days is the average time required for scouring.

WORMS ARE PRESERVED in the following manner:—Procure some fresh mutton suet, cut it fine, and boil it in a quart of water till dissolved; then dip in this two or three pieces of coarse new wrapper large enough to supply each variety of worm, which should not be mixed together. When these are cold, put them into separate earthen jars, with some damp earth and the worms which are to be kept, and tie over all a piece of open and coarse muslin.

SHRIMPS are used for angling in docks and canals, and are good baits for perch, if used alive.

THE COCKCHAFER is a common bait, but is not of much value in angling, except for chub.

DUNG-BEETLES, of various kinds, are also employed, and some anglers use them after removing their wing-cases. They should be placed crosswise on the hook.

GRASSHOPPERS form good baits for some fish, and are much used for chub in particular. They are met with after the beginning of June till the end of September. The greener and larger they are, the better they take.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS are also sometimes efficient baits, but their artificial representations are more commonly used.

THE EPHEMERA, OR NATURAL MAY-FLY, is used as a bait during the period when it comes forth in countless myriads. By baiting with this fly in May and June success is often attained, putting two flies on the hook at the same time.

CADDIS-FLIES are also used in the same way as the ephemera.

HUMBLE-BEES, BLUE-BOTTLE FLIES, GNATS, and ANT-FLIES are held in estimation by many anglers, as well as the HARRY-LONG-LEGS, and the COMMON HOUSE-FLY.

MANY LARVÆ or GRUBS are used in bottom-fishing, and are of great service in that department. Of these the principal are—1st, *flesh maggots*; 2nd, *beetle larvæ*; 3rd, *caddies*; and 4th, *caterpillars*.

FLESH MAGGOTS, OR GENTLES, are obtained and scoured in the following manner: Procure any kind of flesh, or the body of any small animal. If there is any difficulty about this, the liver of a horse or cow answers remarkably well. With a knife cut some deep gashes in the substance of the liver or flesh, and hang it up in a shady place, but near the haunts of the blow-fly. In a few days the maggots will attain a lively state of existence; but they require about a week to reach their full development to the green or soft state, and another week to reach their maturity, when they are large and fat, with black heads. The various stages are adapted for different fish. Blow-flies are abroad from May to the end of November, or even to the middle of December in mild seasons. The SCOURING of these gentles is effected by placing them for a few days in a mixture of bran and fine sand, slightly damp. By this process they are emptied of their contents, and rendered tough in their skins. When the object is to preserve them in this state for many days, they must be kept in a very cool place, such as a cellar, or they even should be buried in the earth. Without attention to this precaution they are almost sure to assume the chrysalis condition, in which stage they are useless as baits. A low temperature and exclusion from air and light retard this development; and by burying the carcase of a small animal (after the larvæ are a day old) in a cool place, and confined in a box containing a mixture of dry cow-dung and fine earth, the gentles may be preserved in their larva state during the whole winter. The place selected should be protected from severe frosts, which would kill the gentles, and therefore an outhouse is well suited for this purpose, or any space in the garden well sheltered by a thick shrub, such as the lauristinus.

THE LARVÆ of the various beetles are called by anglers, the *white-worm grub*, the *cow-dung grub*, the *cabbage grub*, and the *meal-worm*. The first is the larva of the cockchafer, and is found in loose loamy soils, especially near the horse-chestnut. It may be easily found by following the plough. The second, as its name implies, is found in cow-dung, and is the larva of several of the beetle tribe. The third is found in the stalks of old cabbages, and often about their roots, and is the larva of two or three varieties of the beetle. The last is found in the meal-tub, is much smaller than the three first mentioned varieties of grubs

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and is not so good for angling purposes as the gentle.

THESE GRUBS MAY ALL BE PRESERVED by simply placing them with some of the earth in which they are found, in any receptacle, keeping them afterwards in a cool situation.

CADDIES are the larvæ of the ephemera, or May-fly, as well as the stone-fly and the caddis-fly. They are easily found beneath the stones, weeds, &c., of shallow brooks, and may be stored by putting them in water, with some sand, in a cool place. By placing them in a perforated box, they may be suffered to remain in a running stream, where they continue to grow and thrive as well as in their native haunts. They are not, however, much prized as angling baits.

CATERPILLARS, or the larvæ of the butterfly, are either smooth or rough. The former are not much used, and the latter are so thoroughly imitated by the artificial fly called the palmer that they are scarcely ever employed. There is no doubt that in angling natural products are better than artificial, if they are equally capable of enduring the rough usage required to drag them through the water. In this respect it is that the artificial palmer beats the hairy caterpillar, its original; and hence the latter is almost wholly driven out of the angler's list of baits.

SALMON-ROE is a very favourite and killing bait for trout, and is found to be so destructive that its use is often considered to be a species of poaching. I cannot understand on what principle this odious stigma should be cast upon its adoption, because it may be employed, like any other bait, in open day; and the only objection to it which can be urged is its very great success. No one would call an unerring shot a poacher, simply because he kills more than his neighbours; then why should the bait which is more successful than any other labour under this imputation? It appears to me that every one is straining to effect a certain purpose, viz., the killing of the greatest number of fish, and yet when a certain mode of attaining this object is at hand, its adoption is forbidden because it will ensure what all are aiming at, and by open means too. However, as I cannot discover any real foundation for this crusade against the salmon-roe, I shall include it in the list of baits, and describe its preparation and mode of application to the hook. The roe itself should be collected as near the time of spawning as possible, and should either be preserved whole, or be made into a paste at once. If the former, the best way is to keep it in a jar, with alternate layers of wool. The roe should be carefully separated from its enveloping membrane, and should be sprinkled with salt, as also should the wool. When the jar is filled, it should be tied down with a bladder, and kept in a cool and rather moist place, such as a cellar.

SALMON-ROE PASTE is made by boiling the roe without its envelope for 20 minutes, then bruising it in a marble mortar until it forms a uniform mass. After this add to each pound of the roe one ounce of common salt and a quarter of an ounce of saltpetre; beat them all up together, and keep in a jar tied down with bladder.

SHRIMP PASTE is made exactly in the same way, after removing the shells.

BREAD PASTE is also used as a means of taking fish, and is made from new bread, well kneaded, and with or without the addition of honey. It is either used in the white state, or it is coloured with vermilion, lake, or turmeric. Sometimes stale bread is used, but it requires more kneading, and the addition of gum-water, or soaked greaves, or some more adhesive material. It is often flavoured with the roe of salmon, or other fish; the size of the portion used must vary with the fish angled for. Cheese is also sometimes made the foundation of paste, either by itself or mixed with bread; by constant kneading it becomes perfectly tough, and withstands the action of the water for a long time. A peculiar kind of paste, called *patent paste*, is made by washing away all but the pure gluten. A paste of flour is first to be made in the usual way, then by successive washings in cold water, by degrees the process is completed, care being taken not to dissolve the gluten itself by mixing it up with the water; and to avoid this, after each successive washing, let the paste drain for a few minutes. This paste will keep for any length of time, if protected from the action of the air by wrapping it in sheet-lead.

GROUND-BAIT.— The object of this very general accessory to the angler's art is to collect an unusual number of fish to a given spot, and at the same time to do this by offering them a quantity of bait of the same kind as that which is afterwards to be used on the hook, but of an inferior quality to it. Thus if intending to fish with earth-worms, bait with unscoured worms, and fish with them well scoured. Worms in clay-balls are a good ground-bait, because they are not all at once presented to the fish, but appear gradually as the clay dissolves. Mr. Salter, who is a good authority in bottom-fishing, recommends the crumb of a quartern-loaf to

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be cut in slices two inches thick, and soaked in water till thoroughly saturated, then squeeze it tolerably dry, and add bran and pollard, kneading all together till a firm mass is the result as tough as clay. *Soaked greaves* mixed with tenacious clay are a very useful ground-bait; and may be made into large masses, and thrown into the water in lumps of two or three pounds weight. *Gentles* mixed with sand are also used, but they should be unscoured, and coarse old carrion gentles for this purpose are the best, as the fish will be attracted by them, but will take the scoured gentle on the hook in preference.

DEAD FISH AS BAITS are usually so arranged on the hooks as to spin or rotate on their axis rapidly, by the action of the current, or by drawing them through the water. This is an unnatural motion, and unlike any movement of any known inhabitant of the river; nevertheless, it takes well with many fish; and, judged by that unerring criterion, it may safely be approved of and adopted. Minnows, parr-tails, gudgeon, sticklebacks, and other small fish, are thus used; but the preference is always given to the first two when they can be procured. There are various modes of baiting with minnows and these small fish, and almost every fisherman has his particular whims and oddities here as well as in other matters connected with fishing. Nothing could more completely disprove the necessity for the adoption of any peculiar mode of baiting than the immense variety in the plans of the most successful anglers. Some use one hook, some two, some three, and others even four. Some—as, for instance, Mr. Stoddart—bait tail foremost, after removing the head; others always take care to present the head to the trout or pike. The great thing to be attended to is to make the bait spin well, which can only be done by producing a slight curve in its body, and by making the line draw it on one side more than the other. In this way, with one or two swivels, which prevent the line throwing any impediment in the way, the baits rotate rapidly if well applied, and the fish is deceived to his ruin. When two hooks only are used, the extreme one is larger than the other (usually Nos. 3 and 5, English sizes), and they are whipped on the same piece of gut or gimp, at an interval of about half an inch clear between them. A baiting-needle is required for most of these hooks, but here it is not necessary, as the larger hook is passed through the mouth and out at the root of the tail, so as to leave the barb free. When this has been done nicely the minnow assumes a bent form, corresponding with that of the hook, and if properly put on, it will spin or rotate when rapidly drawn through the water. But for this purpose its mouth must be closed mechanically, and this is effected either by a leaden cap which slips down over the line, or by the second hook being passed through both lips, and thus holding them shut; or sometimes, in addition, by a few stitches with a fine needle and thread. Colonel Hawker recommends a hook or two to be allowed to float loosely and openly by the side, on a stout piece of gut, but I cannot advise their adoption. The usual mode of employing the third hook is to whip it on to a piece of gut about an inch long, and then to include this gut in the whipping of the second or smaller hook, which it should also match in size. This third hook then lies closely adapted to the side of the bait, but not floating loosely, as advised by Colonel Hawker. The first two are applied exactly in the same way as when two hooks only are used, when the third will lie flat against the side of the bait, and retains its position there by the stiffness of the gut or gimp. This last form is used for the application of the celebrated parr-tail as a bait, which is much used in Scotland; and is strongly recommended by Mr. Stoddart, one of the highest authorities on the subject. He advises all the fins and tail to be cut off, and the head and shoulders to be then obliquely sliced off with a sharp knife. When this is done, the tail-end is to be used forward—that is, nearest the rod, and is then made to appear as the head of a fish. In this mode the gudgeon, dace, or other small fish may be prepared, when the parr is not to be found; and they answer well for large trout or pike. But nothing takes so completely and generally as a good minnow of the proper size, requiring no paring, and fitting the hooks exactly so as to allow the one to project slightly through the tail, while the other closes the mouth. Some other modes are described as useful variations in adapting dead-fish baits, but I believe the double or treble-hook, as above, will suit all purposes where the bait is required to spin rapidly, whether it be the entire fish or part, as already mentioned. The gudgeon, loach, or dace may be divided in the same way as the parr, and will spin remarkably well when used as he recommends that little fish to be employed; as will also the perch itself when deprived of its back fin, or any of the smaller fish which are attractive to the pike. All these various hooks require swivel-traces, single or

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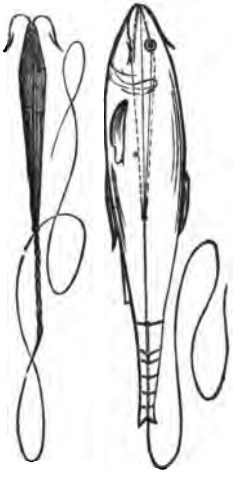
double, which will be found described under the head of Pike-fishing.

MINNOWS ARE ALSO MOUNTED ON GORGE-HOOKS: see woodcut, in which *a* represents the hook itself, and *b* the fish and hook ready



for use. Gorge-hooks are either single or double, the latter being represented in the annexed woodcut. In baiting this hook, after it has been whipped to a piece of strong gut looped at the other end, take a needle used for the purpose, and by its means draw the gut and hook through the mouth and body of the fish, bringing the needle out at the root of the tail, and leaving the hook buried in the body of the minnow, with the bend and barb of the hook on each side of its mouth. After the needle has been brought out, re-enter it on the other side, so as to include a piece of the flesh of the tail in a loop of the gut. If this is neatly done, it will be found, after drawing the gut tight, that there is no disposition in the fish to slip off the hook, unless very flabby, in which case a single turn of light silk tied tightly round the root of the tail is sure to make all safe. Besides these modes some others are used in pike-fishing, but as they are peculiar to that department, they will be treated of under the head of Pike-fishing.

DEAD MINNOWS MAY BE PRESERVED for use, as well as other small fish, by keeping them in salt and water, or pyroligneous acid and water; but the latter I believe gives them a flavour which fish do not like. Sugar also will answer the purpose, or any kind of spirit—as whisky or gin; but by far the best material is oil, which will keep them sweet, and also stiff, for a great length of time, if they are just raised to the boiling temperature, by immersing the vessel containing the oil and fish in boiling water for a few minutes. More than this renders them tender and liable to break. All fish-bait should be killed by a blow on the head as soon as taken.

LIVE FISH form a very common lure for the larger kinds of fish, and they are used by inserting the hook in some part of the body not necessarily vital. This is called ROVING, and is practised with any of the smaller fish, such as minnows, bleak, gudgeon, &c., in capturing trout, perch, pike, &c. The hook is merely entered in the back close to the fin, and the barb is suffered to protrude above that appendage, and with the point of the hook directed towards the tail of the fish. The line must be shotted so as to sink the fish to the required depth, and it may be used with or without a float. Some other methods of fixing the hooks have been recommended, by which the hook is entered in one part, then made to traverse the fish under the skin and finally brought out at the mouth; but they are so abominably cruel that I must decline having anything to do with their description. All field sports are too much mixed up with an undercurrent of cruelty; but where there is a choice, no man of any ordinary feeling will hesitate in selecting the least severe modes of taking game.

FROGS AND NEWTS may be used exactly in the same way as the minnow, by passing the hook through the skin of the back. They must be well shotted, to keep them down, and must be raised to the surface every four or five minutes, to allow them to respire.

MINNOWS ARE PROCURED for the purpose of using them as baits, either by angling for them, and carefully removing them from the hook, and then placing them at once in a vessel of water, or by taking them with a large hoop-net or fine casting-net. The last plan is that usually adopted, but it requires some little practice for its use, and nothing but an ocular demonstration will give any idea of the mode of employment. Any fisherman will, however, initiate the tyro for a trifling consideration. With the hoop-net they may be taken, by sinking it by means of weights to the bottom of the brook; then, after enticing the minnows by means of small pieces of worms dropped over it, the

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string is suddenly raised, and the minnows are caught in its meshes.

MINNOWS MAY BE PRESERVED ALIVE by placing them in a perforated tin or wooden case, and sinking them in any running stream, in which mode they retain their health and liveliness for an indefinite period. They may also be kept alive for a long time in any clean vessel by changing their water frequently; but in this way they are not so healthy as in the above plan. When wanted for use, a small bait-kettle is used with a perforated lid, and capable of containing from one to two quarts of water. This should be kept under the shade of a tree or hedge while the fishing is going on, as the heat of the sun soon raises the temperature of the water to such a height as to destroy the life of the fish, or so nearly so as to cause their death soon after putting them on the hook.

SECT. 4.—ARTIFICIAL BAITS AND FLIES.

MINNOWS are now manufactured so as closely to resemble the real fish in appearance, but most of them fail in imitating the consistence and softness of the original, and consequently do not take nearly so well as their appearance would lead one to expect. The Archimedian minnow spins beautifully, and so do some others constructed on similar principles, and all will take good fish, but certainly not so well as the real minnow. In many localities, however, these are very scarce, and there the substitute is certainly useful. Mr. Flinn's flexible minnows are far the best, as they are soft and yielding to the grasp of the fish; they are made of gutta percha, painted very closely in imitation of the minnow, gudgeon, &c., and are of sizes suited to all fish, from the trout to the salmon. The Archimedian, on the other hand, is hard and inflexible, and though it spins well, and is to the eye all that can be desired, yet from its hardness to the touch it is very apt to deter fish from a close approach, and is not so successful as Mr. Flinn's imitation. Mr. Blacker, also, has recently introduced a modification of the "devil-bait," with the addition of a pair of Archimedian fins; this is said to spin well, and to take good fish, but I know nothing personally of its properties.

ARTIFICIAL FLIES are so numerous, and their importance is so great, that a great part of the angler's time is generally occupied in mastering a knowledge of their various forms, and the mode of tying them. All of them are composed of three essential parts: first, the hook; second, the gut or loop to attach the hook to the line; and third, the various articles tied on the hook for the purpose of imitating the natural fly. The angler will have no difficulty in procuring his hooks and gut, both of which, however, he ought to select with great care; but he will experience some little vexation and disappointment when he attempts to tie an artificial fly, especially without the practical instruction of some older craftsman. Mr. Blacker, of Dean-street, Soho, has endeavoured to supply this *desideratum*, by publishing a small 8vo. volume in explanation of the whole process of making artificial trout and salmon-flies. His illustrations are most beautifully executed, being engraved on steel, and coloured by hand in the most elaborate manner; and every young fly-fisher who aspires to any degree of proficiency in this elegant art ought to possess himself of this volume. His great practice as a fly-fisher, and also as a manufacturer of flies, renders him perhaps more capable than any other man in the kingdom of performing the task which he has attempted.

THE MATERIALS are first to be collected, and if they are not at once bought in the mass from the fishing-tackle maker, they require some little time to get them together. They should be kept in a case expressly for them; the best form for which is somewhat like that of the common travelling writing-case. In this the body of the case contains the solid articles, such as wax, hooks, scissors, &c., and the lid may be converted into a series of large pockets, for feathers, silks, wools, &c.

FLY-MAKING MATERIALS.

1st—Hooks of all sizes.
2nd—Gut, plain and dyed, fine and stout.
3rd—Fine, curved, and common scissors.
4th—Nippers and pliers.
5th—Silks of all kinds and colours.
6th—Wax, spirit—varnish, and brush.
7th—Wing-picker or pointer.
8th—Pair of fine spring-forceps.
9th—Dubbings, viz.: pig's wool, mohair, coloured wools, hare's ear-fur, white seal's or white rabbit's fur, water-rat's fur, cow-hair, squirrel's fur, mole's fur, black spaniel's ear-fur, black bear's hair, &c.
10th—Tinsels, viz.: gold and silver, flat wire, twisted and fretted cords, &c.
11th—Feathers for trout-flies, viz.: wing-feathers of snipe, woodcock, partridge, land-rail, thrush, lark, starling, blackbird, wren, waterhen, coot, and redwing. Body feathers of grouse, pheasant, mallard, teal, and golden plover. Hackles of barn-door fowl in all colours. Neck-feathers of partridge,

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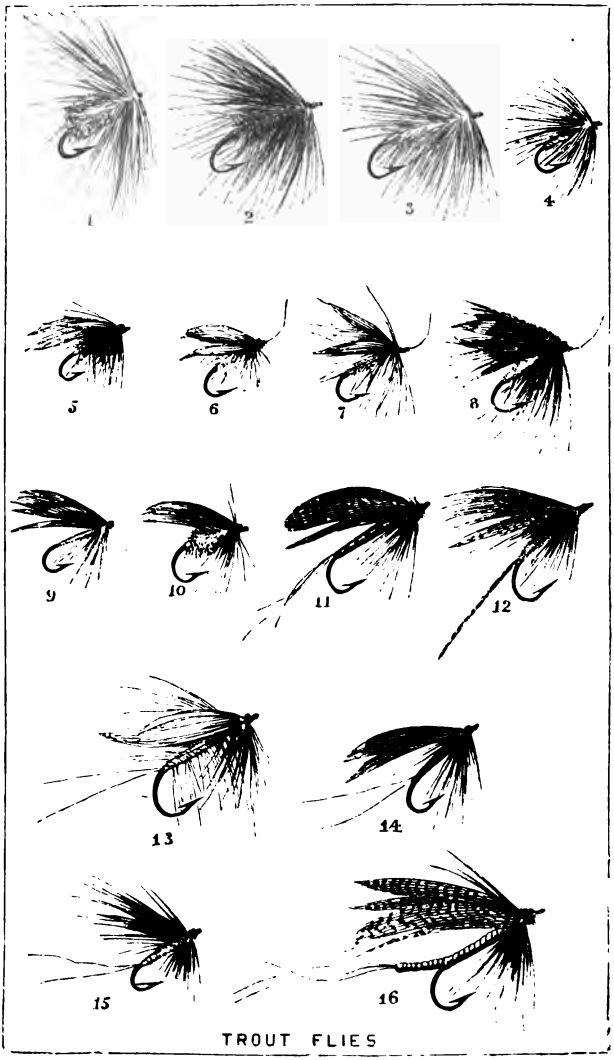

TROUT FLIES

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starling, lapwing, wren, to be used as hackles. Peacock-herls and ostrich-herls of all colours, dyed.

12th—Feathers for salmon-flies: including those of the turkey in all shades, golden pheasant neck and body-feathers, silver pheasant, common pheasant, and argus pheasant, peacock, jungle-cock. Blue feathers of the lowrie and mackaw, and of the jay's wing. Green feathers of the mackaw. Besides the natural colours, there should be dyed cock's hackles of larger size than for trout, of the following shades, viz.: purple, blue, crimson, scarlet, orange, yellow, green, and brown. Feathers of the kingfisher, swan's feathers for dyeing. Guinea-fowl, bittern, heron (pendant and breast feathers), ostrich, and raven. Few collections comprehend the whole of the above, but the angler may endeavour to obtain as many of them as possible; still he may rest satisfied even if he is not able to fill up every link in so extensive an assortment.

DYEING is required when the natural feathers, &c., are not sufficiently varied. It is an art exceedingly simple in principle, though not always so easy in practice, if the colours are required to be very delicate or brilliant. All the light and transparent shades require for their perfect development either a white material, or one of a shade somewhat resembling the intended one. Thus the pale or bright yellows can only succeed with a white ground; reds will take on brown or yellow; greens on any light colour, but not well on deep brown or red; purple on light brown or red, &c., &c. The chief materials that require to be dyed for the purposes of the angler are silk, feathers, and wool, or hair. The first is usually to be bought of the required colour and shade, and it may therefore be dismissed from consideration. The second and third require to be well scoured before they will take the dye, and for this purpose a solution of carbonate of potash (one drachm to a pint of water) is to be employed, or putrid urine, the material being well soaked, and then washed in it, and finally thoroughly rinsed in clean water. All dyes, or nearly all, are effected upon the same principle; namely, to saturate the substance with the colouring matter while in a soluble state and dissolved in water, and then to add some substance that will convert the soluble dye into an insoluble one, by which process it is retained within the substance of the material, and is rendered permanent, or incapable of being washed out. This latter substance is called a *mordant*. Thus in almost every case the art of dyeing requires the dye-stuff and the mordant to be separately applied; sometimes the mordant being first introduced, and then the dye-stuff, whilst at others the opposite mode is adopted. In some cases, however, the two are applied together, and in others no mordant whatever is required.

THE MORDANTS used in dyeing are numerous; but for our purposes a few only need be employed. These are—first, alum and acetate of alumine; secondly, muriate of tin; thirdly, nutgalls; fourthly, acetate of iron. Alum is most generally used, with the addition of a little cream of tartar, which is added in order to engage the excess of acid when decomposed by the oily matter contained in the material. Half an ounce of alum and half a drachm of cream of tartar are dissolved in boiling water in an earthen pipkin, and the materials are then boiled for two hours in the solution, which is called "a bath." They are then taken out, drained, and washed, and are ready for the dye. For dyeing feathers, purified alum should be used, as the common sort is impregnated with sulphate of iron. The other mordants are used in the same way, in quantities which will be specified when required.

THE DYE-STUFFS are either soluble or insoluble in water. When the former is the case, as it generally is, they are dissolved in it at a boiling temperature in an earthen pipkin. Into this the material, after receiving the mordant, as described in the preceding paragraph, is plunged, and allowed to remain for a specified time, varying according to circumstances. When the colouring matter is by nature insoluble in water as in the case of indigo, its solution is effected by means of some other fluid, with which the article to be coloured is imbued; after which, by the addition of some third body, it is again rendered insoluble, and thus retained in the meshes of the material.

TO DYE BLACK.—Make a mordant-bath of one drachm of acetate of iron dissolved in half a pint of water; boil the materials in this for two hours, then rinse, and boil gently for one or two hours, according to the shade required, in the following dye-bath:—Madder and logwood, of each two ounces; water, half a pint.

PURPLE is dyed by using the above mordant-bath and half the quantity of dye-stuff. If a crimson purple is required, the mordant must be composed of equal quantities of acetate of iron and acetate of alumine.

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CRIMSON OR CLARET. — The mordant must be composed of one part of acetate of iron and three of acetate of alumine; then use the madder and logwood as before. If required to be very bright, use the alumine without the iron. Another mode consists in using the alum-bath as a mordant, and cochineal as the dye-stuff; but there is not so rich a result as with the first receipt.

RED.—Mordant of acetate of alumine alone. Dye-stuff, madder or cochineal.

SCARLET is dyed by making a mordant-bath of muriate of tin, two drachms to the half-pint, with the same quantity of cream of tartar. Then make a dye-bath of three or four drachms of cochineal, and boil till dissolved, after which the materials must be gently simmered in it for an hour or two, and then dipped in the mordant-bath, examining carefully to see when the full colour desired is obtained.

ORANGE.—First use the mordant-bath of acetate of alumine, then boil in a dye-bath of madder, and afterwards one of quercitron. The exact shade must be obtained by repeated trials.

YELLOW.—Very strong mordant-bath of acetate of alumine, then dip in a dye-bath of quercitron or turmeric, varying the quantity according to the shade required.

A GOLDEN COLOUR is obtained by alternately using two baths, one of copperas and the other of lime-water (one drachm of the copperas to half a pint of water). By the absorption of oxygen, the pretoxide of iron soon passes into the golden-coloured deutoxide.

A BUFF is obtained by a diluted bath of each of the last materials.

BLUE is produced by rendering indigo soluble, either by dissolving it in three times its weight of sulphuric acid, which, however, to a certain extent destroys the toughness of the feathers, or by adding to it equal quantities of potash and orpiment, which make it of a greenish yellow for a time, from which it recovers its colour by exposure to the air; or by adding to the indigo a solution of copperas in lime-water. Both of these last processes, however, require some time and exposure to the air to produce the full blue colour. The proportions are one of indigo to two of the copperas and lime, respectively.

GREEN is produced by dyeing first the yellow colour, and then dipping in the indigo till a proper shade is produced. It must always be remembered that the blue becomes more fully developed by time, and consequently the colour should be at first of a more yellow shade than is required.

The following shades are not so permanent as those already given, but they are sufficiently so to suit the purposes of the angler:—

A PALE GREEN, as required for the green drake, is obtained by using the muriate of tin mordant, and then immersing in a dye-bath composed of prussian-blue and tincture of turmeric, both being used very sparingly.

LAVENDER OR SLATE is obtained by bruised nut-galls and copperas, with more or less logwood according to the shade required.

BROWNS may be procured either by boiling walnut-shells down to a strong solution, or, when required of a more chestnut hue, it may be made of that colour by boiling in a bath composed of a small handful each of sumach and alder-bark boiled in half a pint of water with half a drachm of copperas.

OLIVE is obtained by adding to the green, as above described, a portion of the walnut-dye, more or less according to the colour required. Brown olive requires the foundation to be of the walnut decoction, and only a little green to be added, while green-olive must be fast dyed in the usual way of a green colour, and then submitted to the walnut decoction.

WAX is used either in the shape of the common "cobbler's-wax," or in a transparent form, composed of—white-wax half an ounce, Burgundy-pitch half a drachm, lard half a drachm; melt all together, then cool, and when nearly cold work and draw it well out till it becomes white, opaque, and ductile.

SPIRIT-VARNISH is sold in all the shops of good quality; and, also, good TURPENTINE-VARNISH, which should be obtained of the best coachmaker's quality. It cannot be made in small quantities nearly so well as by the varnish-makers.

Such are all the materials which are necessary for artificial fly-making. We will now proceed to consider the best mode of tying them on the hook.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FLY-MAKING. In all cases the gut and hook should first be selected of such size and strength as will serve to hold the fish which they are intended to capture; then whip the hook on one end of this piece of gut, after flattening it with the teeth, using for the whipping a piece of strong silk well waxed with cobbler's-wax. Sometimes the continuation of this same silk is used for the purpose of tying on the feathers, wool, &c., but usually a finer kind is employed, and espe-

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cially where great neatness is required, as in the smaller sized flies. Some fly-makers begin their whipping at the bend, and others at the end of the shank, but this is very immaterial, and is almost always a matter of choice. The most simple fly is made up of a head, body, and legs; the next stage of complication gives a pair of simple wings, then a tail, and finally are superadded, in the salmon-fly, the compound bodies which separate joints and legs, and the wings and tails, composed of various coloured feathers.

THE BODY is made of one or other of the following materials: first, coloured floss-silk wound round the shank regularly, and giving a uniform, smooth, and shining surface, as in the caperer; secondly, of wool, fur, or mohair called dubbings, attached to the tying-silk by the adhesive power of the wax with which it is covered, and forming with it a rough hairy line, which is then wound round the shank from the end to the bend, or *vice versâ*—this forms a rough hairy-looking body, as in the hare-lug and numerous other flies; thirdly, of peacock or ostrich herl, either of which if wound singly or in double layers round the shank, and forms the body of several of the most killing flies—as, for instance, the black-gnat and peacock-hackle; fourthly, of a foundation composed of either of the above materials ribbed with silk or gold, or silver-twist wound spirally round, or sometimes in a circular manner at intervals in the body, or as a terminal joint at the lowest part.

THE LEGS OR FEELERS are generally made of feathers wound spirally round the shank of the hook, but sometimes dependance is placed on the dubbing, which, after it is wound round, is pulled out by means of the picker, and made to take the form of the legs, as in the hare-lug and brown-rail. This, however, answers badly, except in very small flies, as all the dubbings lie close in the water, and do not serve to conceal the bend and barb of the hook like the hackles or any other kind of feather. Generally speaking, the legs are imitated by some of the many-coloured cock's hackles, which the fly-fisher ought to possess, either of the natural colours of the cock, or dyed in one of the receipts given above. These are first tied at the point to the shank, beginning always from the side next the bend and ending at the shoulder, and thus keeping the longest fibres of the hackle outwards. Sometimes the whole body is invested with two or more hackles, after first making it up full with dubbing of some kind. This is seen in the single and double palmers.

THE HEAD is generally made by a few turns of silk, or by the black herl of the ostrich, or that of the peacock's feather.

THE TAIL, when used, is composed in the trout-fly of two or three fibres of some feather, as in the grey-drake; or of two fine hairs, as in the stone-fly. In the salmon-fly it is often much more complicated, and is then generally composed of a part of the crest-feather of the golden pheasant, with or without the addition of a tag of coloured silk or other gaudy material.

THE WINGS in the trout-fly are generally composed of two pieces of the web of some of the feathers enumerated in the list already given. They are sometimes tied on at the shoulder, in the direction which they finally assume, but the best plan, and that which gives the best appearance in the water, is to tie them on first the reverse way to that which they must take when finished, and then turn them back again, and retain them in that position with a couple of turns of the silk. In the salmon-fly the wings are often made up of six different feathers, each called a topping.

A LITTLE VARNISH added with a fine brush to the head, and also to the lower end next the tail, but with great care, prevents those parts from coming to pieces, and greatly adds to the lasting properties of the fly.

HACKLES AND PALMERS.—The mode of tying the peacock-hackle (*fig.* 1), which is one of the simplest of all flies, is as follows:—Begin by whipping the hook on the gut, leaving a loose end of the silk hanging from the shoulder, where the whipping is to be commenced. When the whipping has proceeded to within two or three turns of the bend, include within its folds the ends of two or three peacock-herls, which are to be left projecting beyond the bend, and after making these turns fasten off. Then take a red cock's hackle, and smooth the fibres of it well; with a pair of scissors trim these off at the point, leaving the shank bare for about an eighth of an inch; next include this within two or three turns of the silk left at the shoulder, directing the hackle towards the gut and fastening off the silk. Then taking the bend of the hook between the finger and thumb of the left hand, lay hold of the herls with the right, and wind them carefully round the shank of the hook up to the point where the hackle is tied, where they are to be included in the silk which is still left there and then cut off.

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The body is now complete, but the legs are still to be imitated by the hackle, which should be carefully wound round the hook above the herl; arranging the fibres, as it is wound, by means of the picker, and fastening off at last by means of the silk which is still projecting, and left for the purpose. Now cut off the silk at both ends, lay on carefully a very little varnish at each end, and the fly is complete. All palmers and hackles (*figs.* 2, 3, and 4) are made on this principle, substituting various feathers for the cock's hackle, and various dubbings for the peacock-herl.

SIMPLE WINGED-FLIES.—Sometimes a pair of wings are tied on at the same time as the hackle-point, and afterwards the hackle is wound round the shank, and thus serves to keep the wings from lying flat against the hook when in the water. (See the black gnat, hare-lug, yellow sally, oak-fly, caperer, &c.)

THE BLACK GNAT (*fig.* 5) is tied in the same way as the peacock-hackle, using a smaller hook (No. 13), and fine black silk. A small black ostrich-herl forms the body, and a piece of the starling's wing-feather the wings. A very fine black cock's hackle is used for the legs.

THE HARE-LUG (*fig.* 6) is composed of a body consisting of a dubbing from the back of the hare's ear, making it thin and neat towards the tail, and pretty stout near the shoulder. The hook is of the same size as in the black gnat, and the wings are the same. After these are tied, pick out a little of the dubbing to make the legs.

THE YELLOW SALLY (*fig.* 7), is tied exactly like the hare-lug, with the substitution of yellow or buff mohair or fur for that of the hair, and the addition of a fine yellow cock's hackle for legs; wings from a feather from the inside of the thrush's wing. Hook No. 12,

THE OAK-FLY (*fig.* 8).—The body is made of brown mohair and a little hare's ear-fur towards the tail. Legs of a bittern's hackle, or partridge feather, or a furnace-cock's hackle; wings of a woodcock's wing-feather. Hook No. 8.

THE CAPERER (*fig.* 9) is made up as follows:—Body of rich brown floss-silk; legs of a fine red or brown hackle; wings of a woodcock's feather. Hook No. 9.

THE WINGED-PALMER (*fig.* 10), a good common autumn fly, is made on the same plan as the peacock-hackle, but of a smaller size, and with the addition of a pair of wings made from the outside-feather of the thrush's wing. The end of the body is finished with a few turns of orange silk. Hook No. 9 or 10. It is the cock-y-bondhu of Wales.

WINGED AND TAILED-FLIES.—These are made like the last set of flies, except that at the time of whipping on the hook the fibres are included which are to constitute the tail. The body is then formed by the dubbing, floss-silk, or herl, and the wings tied as before. This set includes, among a vast variety of flies, the May-fly, green drake, stone-fly, March-brown, red spinner, &c.

THE GREEN DRAKE OR MAY-FLY (*fig.* 11).—Body made of yellow floss-silk or mohair, dyed a pale yellowish-green, and ribbed with bright yellow silk; tail of two or three hairs of the sable or fitchet, or of fine horse-hair from the mane; legs of a grey cock's hackle, dyed the same colour as the mohair, or of a ginger pile undyed; wings from the mallard's back feather, dyed of the same yellowish-green. Hook No. 6 or 7.

THE GREY DRAKE (*fig.* 12) is made as follows:—Body of pale dun-coloured mohair; tail of two fibres from the feather of the mallard's back; legs of a brown or ginger cock's hackle; wings from the grey feather of the mallard's back, undyed. Hook No. 6.

THE STONE-FLY (*fig.* 13).—Body of red mohair, ribbed with gold or yellow silk; tail of two long fibres from a coarse red cock's hackle; legs a red cock's hackle, carried down over all the body; wings of the hen-pheasant's tail-feather, or of the grey goose wing-feather. Hook No. 6.

THE MARCH-BROWN (*fig.* 14).—This fly is made of two sizes; one on hook No. 7, the other on No. 11 or 12. The body is of brown floss-silk; tail of two long fibres of the red cock's hackle; legs of brown cock's hackle; wings of a woodcock's feather.

THE RED SPINNER (*fig.* 15) is tied on hook No. 7. Body of red mohair, sometimes ribbed with gold; tail of two fibres of a red cock's hackle; legs of the same hackle; wings of a brown mallard's feather.

THE WINGED LARVA of Mr. Blacker (*fig.* 16) resembles the green drake in all but the body, which is prolonged separately from the hook by means of a couple of hog's bristles, which are tied in with it and the tail-hairs, and extend about a quarter of an inch beyond the bend. The silk or dubbing is then carried from the shank to the bristles; and thus the fly has the appearance of a long body. The legs are often made with a dyed feather of the mallard's back, used as a hackle.

EXTRA TROUT-FLIES.—Those given in the preceding paragraphs will suffice for all

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common purposes; but they may be varied *ad infinitum* by the angler, to suit particular localities. If, however, he makes himself perfect in the manufacture and use of these, and has the stock of materials which I have enumerated in page 272, it will be at all times easy for him to extend his list, either by imitating the prevalent natural fly, or that which is successfully employed by the anglers familiar with the district. Mr. Stoddart is of opinion that for the trout, the red, brown, and black hackles, with or without wings, and the hare-lug are sufficient for all ordinary purposes. This is perhaps carrying simplicity to an extreme length; but there can be no doubt that the young angler is often overwhelmed with useless flies, as well as other complicated forms of fishing-tackle, in order to suit the trading propensities of the tackle-makers. No doubt in Mr. Stoddart's case the above flies would be more successful than others attached to the line of a beginner; but even the above celebrated *piscator* does not maintain that no others will be more successful at times than the three he has selected, but that there is no absolute necessity for them. This certainly is in accordance with my own experience, as I have known a very successful angler who never possessed any fly but the red and black palmer and the black gnat. Still I have no doubt that at least as great a variety as I have enumerated will at certain times be useful, though some of them will only suit particular months. The following list will perhaps be some little aid to the young angler who is anxious to try a greater variety.

THE WREN'S TAIL.—Body of sable-fur and gold-coloured mohair mixed. No wings; legs of a wren's tail-feather, used as a hackle. Hook No. 8.

THE GROUSE-HACKLE.—Body of gold-coloured mohair mixed with the dark fur from the hare's ear. No wings; legs made with a reddish-brown grouse feather, used as a hackle. Hook No. 7.

THE DARK CLARET.—Body of claret mohair, fine towards the tail, and full towards the shank. Wings four, two below from the starling's wing, and the upper two from the partridge's tail.

THE SPIDER-FLY.—Body of lead-coloured floss-silk; legs of a small black cock's hackle below and above, with a hackle made from the woodcock's feather taken from near the butt-end of the wing. Hook No. 7.

THE LITTLE IRON-BLUE.—Body of slate-coloured mohair; tail of two fine hairs from a dark sable; legs of a fine dun cock's hackle; wings of the coot's or starling's wing-feather. Hook No. 9 or 10.

THE BLUE-BLOW.—Body of mole's fur; wings of the tomtit's tail-feather. Hook No. 14.

THE HARE'S EAR AND YELLOW.—Body the dark fur of a hare's ear, mixed with a little yellow mohair; wings of a starling's feather. Hook No. 8.

THE ANT-FLIES are of four kinds—the large and small red, and the large and small black. The red are tied on Nos. 7 and 12. Body of amber-mohair, made large towards the tail; legs of a red cock's hackle; wings of a starling's feather. The black have a body of black ostrich herl, with a black hackle for legs; wings of the blue feather of the jay's wing.

THE MEALY-WHITE NIGHT-FLY.—Body white rabbit-fur, made fully as large as a straw on a No. 5 hook; legs of a downy white hackle; wings of the soft mealy feathers of the white-owl.

THE MEALY-BROWN NIGHT-FLY.—Body of the same size as the preceding, made of the fur of a tabby-rabbit; legs of a bittern's hackle, or a grey cock's; wings the brown feathers of a white owl. Hook No 5 or 6.

SALMON-FLIES are made on the same principle as the trout-flies, but as they are larger, so they are capable of being tied with greater exactness and finish. They are generally of much more gaudy materials than the trout-flies; and in this respect they have latterly been used still more richly coloured than was formerly the case, even in Ireland. Until lately, very sober salmon-flies were ordinarily used in Scotland, the prevailing colours being grey, brown, buff, and brick-dust; but now it is found that a much more brilliant set of colours will answer far better, and the Irish favourites, viz., scarlet, bright yellow, blue, and green, are the fashion, united with less bright toppings—as, for instance, the tail-feather of the pheasant, or the back or breast of the bittern or turkey. In Wales more sober flies are still in vogue; straw colours, natural mottles, and pheasant or turkey feathers being considered the most killing. Tinsels are, however, approved of in all three localities, and are used more or less in almost every salmon-fly. In nearly all cases this fly consists of a body, a head, legs, and tail, and wings of a very compound nature; but the mode of tying is very similar to that adopted in trout fly-making. Most salmon-flies are tied with a small loop of gut attached to the shank, instead of, as in the trout-fly, a full length of that material; sometimes a bristle or a piece of

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wire is bent for the purpose, and again in some cases the gut, either plain or twisted, is tied on as in the trout-fly. Whichever mode is adopted, the end or ends of the gut or bristle must be shaved off, and moulded with the teeth into slight ridges, so as neither to present an abrupt and unsightly edge where they leave off, nor to be so smooth as to be liable to slip from the hook. This eye or length of gut is to be first whipped on to the hook in the usual way with strong waxed silk, which is then to be fastened off and removed; and for the subsequent tying, a finer and generally a bright-coloured silk adapted to the particular fly is to be employed. We will now enter upon the construction of six salmon-flies, which are given in the plates annexed, of the exact size. Nos. 1 and 2 are well suited for either Scotland or Wales, and for comparatively clear waters; the remainder are calculated for more turbid water in Ireland or Scotland.

THE SALMON-FLY, No. 1.—After tying on the loop of gut, take a piece of crimson silk about half a yard long, and fasten it on at the bend, leaving an end to reach beyond the shoulder; next take a part of a golden-pheasant's crest-feather for tail, and tie it on the upper side of the bend, also including a flat piece of gold tinsel; then dub the silk, after waxing it, with crimson mohair, and lap it round the shank for about one-third of the length; when arrived at this stage, tie in the point of a long and coarse cock's hackle, dyed crimson, then proceed with the rest of the silk and dubbing to complete the body. As soon as this part is finished, the dubbing must be removed from the remainder of the silk, which must be fastened off; now take a piece of the tail of the pheasant of the requisite length and substance for the wing, and a single herl of the peacock for the head, and tie them on firmly one above and the other below the shoulder of the hook, using the other piece of the silk left projecting at the shank-end, and laying the feathers for the wings either at once where they ought to go, or else tying them first the reverse way and then turning them over, and keeping them down with an extra turn or two of the silk over the root of the wing; fasten this off, and proceed to finish the body, for which purpose the hackle is first rolled round till it comes close under the wings, where it is fastened off, and then the gold tinsel is wound several times round the bare hook under the tail, then once over it, and afterwards spirally round the shank, following the hackle till it arrives at the shoulder, where it also must be fastened off, and neatly cut off with the hackle. The fly is now complete, with the exception of the head, which is made with the peacock's herl wound round the part of the shank left projecting beyond the wing, and is fastened with the same piece of silk as the wing, which fastening receives a touch of varnish with the brush kept for the purpose. This is one of the most simple of all salmon-flies, and is well adapted for the practice of the young fly-maker. (See *fig.* 1.)

SMALL SALMON OR GRILSE FLY, No 2.—This is tied almost exactly on the same principle as the last, but the materials, &c., being different, it presents when finished a lighter and somewhat brighter aspect. The body is of brown mohair or weasel's fur, the last joint being of bright yellow floss-silk, finished off with a single turn of gold tinsel; tail of six or seven fibres of the golden-pheasant's crest-feather; wings of two portions, the outer part being of the grey feather of the mallard, the inner, of the yellow part of the web of the hen pheasant's tail; a reddish-brown coarse cock's hackle is rolled over the whole of the mohair forming the body, and with it a piece of silver twist. The head is composed of a few turns of the tying silk only, without any other materials. (See *fig.* 2.)

GAUDY SALMON-FLY, No. 3. — After whipping on the loop, a portion of golden-pheasant's tail and a piece of silver twist are fastened on to the bend of the hook; after which the silk used in the process is dubbed with blood-red mohair, with which one-third of the shank is covered, then another third with orange, and finally, the remaining third with deep green-dyed wool. Corresponding with each division, and before proceeding to the next, a cock's hackle of the same colour as the body is tied on, and wound spirally round, finishing it off and tying it down with the silk used for the dubbing of each division. After completing the last division, the point of a bottle-green or purple cock's hackle is to be tied in, together with a pair of wings composed of two full golden pheasant's crest feathers, with two toppings of the yellow crest of the mackaw under; and in addition, a black ostrich herl for the head. After the wings are partly tied on, and before they are reversed, the silver twist is wound round, the purple hackle is then turned round and finished off; after which, the wing is reversed and tied down, and the herl formed into the head in the usual way. It is a very light and taking fly in the water. (See *fig.* 3.)

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GAUDY SALMON-FLY, No. 4. — Tail of two slips of brown mallard's feather, with a thin topping of golden pheasant's crest. This is tied on *after* making a short joint at the bend of the hook of gold tinsel and orange floss-silk. The tinsel is carried on under the latter, and is left for further use. Next tie in a black ostrich herl, and turn it round three times closely together, finish off and remove the end; then dub the silk with crimson mohair or wool, and make up one-quarter of the shank with it for body; tie in a black cock's hackle, and make up another quarter by dubbing the silk with scarlet wool; then another quarter with the crimson, and tie in when finishing this part a bright-red coarse cock's hackle. Now wind the black hackle up to the last quarter of the body, following it up with the gold tinsel, and fasten and remove the ends of both. Next take a pair of wings composed as follows, placing one of every sort of topping on each side in a corresponding manner: first, two long fibres of red mackaw; secondly, two portions of reddish-black mottled turkey's feather, not quite so long; thirdly, two portions of the back feather of the golden-pheasant; fourthly, two short feathers of the blue lowrie or mackaw. These are to be tied on above the shoulder. and a piece of dark guinea-fowl's back feather below; also a black ostrich herl for head. In tying on wing-feathers of this compound sort, pinch them flat between the finger and thumb, and do not attempt to tie them on the reverse way. After the wings are secure, and also the guinea-fowl's feathers for feelers, wind the last red hackle as a support to them, and then finish off with the herl for the head. (See *fig.* 4.)

MEDIUM SALMON-FLY, No. 5. — First whip on the loop as usual, then commence by fastening a piece of silver plait or braid, which is to make one turn at the bend of the hook, and is to be afterwards concealed by some turns of purple floss-silk for about the eighth of an inch; next tie in for the tail a fine pointed red cock's hackle and a golden-pheasant's crest feather projecting beyond it; then a black ostrich herl, which is to conceal their root by making a raised ring of black above the silver braid, which is now allowed to hang over ready for use. The body is then made up of three equal portions of floss-silk, orange, yellow, and lilac, over which the silver braid is to be spirally wound. Next tie at the shoulder a blue jay's wing-feather, to be used as a hackle, and then a compound wing of the following dubbings: first, a large piece of brown mallard's feather; secondly, a fibre on each side of the green or blue mackaw; thirdly, a dyed crimson cock's hackle on each side; fourthly, two slips of bustard's feather. Below this is to be tied a long tag of the short herls at the root of the ostrich feather, and surrounding the shoulders of both the wing and the feelers a portion of reddish mohair is tied on, and afterwards picked out so as to shade off gradually over both. Finally, a head is formed with a few turns of well waxed silk. This is a very good and useful fly, and will take in a medium state of water, being neither very gaudy nor quite plain. (See *fig.* 5.)

A VERY GAUDY SALMON-FLY, No. 6.— Begin as usual, then fasten on at the bend a piece of tying silk, half a yard long; well wax it, and then lay on, first of all, at the bend two or three turns of flat gold tinsel, which fasten off with the silk; next include in the silk the tail, consisting of a golden pheasant's crest feather, a small bright crimson cock's hackle, dyed, and three or four fibres of a pale-green mackaw's feather. Now tie in a short tuft of crimson wool, surrounding the hook, and do this either by using it as a dubbing or otherwise at discretion. In fastening this off, include a piece of twisted gold cord, and then dub the silk with snuff-coloured wool, mohair, or pig's wool, with which the lower half of the body is to be made up; finishing the upper half with crimson wool as a dubbing. In the interval between the two dubbings, tie the point of a large and coarse crimson-dyed cock's hackle, and, before finishing off the crimson dubbing, tie on first the feather of a cormorant's neck as a hackle; a dark guinea-fowl's feather will do, in the absence of the cormorant's feather. Next wind the gold cord spirally round the whole body, then lay down the crimson hackle, and finally the cormorant's neck hackle, tying each down *seriatim*. A very large and handsome compound wing is now tied on, and with it a black ostrich-herl for the head. The wing is composed of the following toppings: first, two from the golden-pheasant's or bustard's tail feathers; secondly, two fibres of the red mackaw; thirdly, two of the blue mackaw; fourthly, two of the bustard or brown wood-duck's feather. Under this lies the cormorant's neck feather, which being used as a hackle, appears above and below the shoulder of the hook. This is a good spring-fly, and is the largest ordinary size suited for Scotland or Ireland.

SEA-TROUT FLIES may be made of sizes and colours intermediate between the trout

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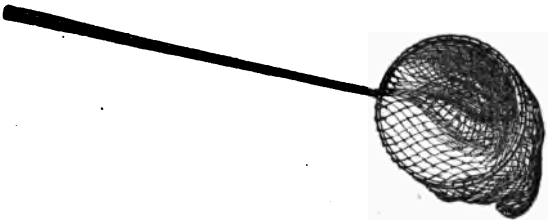
and salmon-flies. They are tied of all colours, and with or without the addition of a gaudy tail of golden-pheasant fibres, and tinsel wound round the body. The following size and form, however, will suit the trout in lochs, and the average size of the sea-trout when ascending from the sea. The body is of brown mohair, legs of a black cock's hackle; wings of a brown mallard's feather; head of plain waxed silk. Hook No. 5 or 6. A good variation consists in using purple or scarlet dubbing for the body; red or lilac-dyed hackle, and the green-dyed feather generally used for the May-fly for the wings; with a tail of a few fibres of the common pheasant's tail feather. Numberless variations of these flies are made and sold, but the whole of them are fanciful creations of the maker's brain, and not imitations of any living insect. The fisherman, therefore, may please his own fancy, and try his skill in any way that strikes him, and perhaps the more novel the fly the better it may succeed, though there is still a considerable section of good anglers who adhere to the old-fashioned flies called the butcher, the doctor, &c., but I fully believe that any slight variation or alteration from the annexed models, according to the contents of the angler's stock of materials, will be just as likely to succeed as the celebrated "ondine" of Ephemera, or the new "spirit-flies" of Mr. Blacker. The whole of the above set are tied after the models of the last-mentioned maker's flies, but differ considerably from those published in his very beautiful series of plates. The change, however, is in favour of the fisherman, as I believe the flies will be found to be equally killing, and not near so expensive or difficult to tie as those published by him; nevertheless, I should strongly advise every fisherman to procure his book, and study his models for himself; they are so beautifully engraved, and coloured by hand, that the fly-maker can scarcely fail in detecting their mode of tying; but he must not expect to equal them in beauty, for even Mr. Blacker himself cannot by any possible degree of neatness come up to the delicacy of finish with which he has endowed his painted imitations. This caution I have added, fearing lest the tyro should give up his task in disgust, and without the slightest wish to detract from the merits of a performance, the utility of which, with the above caution, I am ready most fully to allow.

Sect. 5.—The Landing-Net, Gaff, Basket, &c.

The Landing-Net (see *fig.*) is merely a hoop with a handle to it, and armed with a net for the purpose of taking the hooked



fish out of the water, without danger to the tackle or of losing the fish. It is generally now made with a hollow handle, to take the top joints of the rod, and this handle screws off the ring, which is also jointed, for the convenience of carriage.

The Gaff and Landing-Hook are constructed for the same purpose. The simple hook now used, attached to a firm handle, inflicts the least severe wound, and is more manageable than the gaff.

The Basket or Creel is slung over the shoulder by a belt, and is made of various sizes to suit the probable amount or weight of fish expected by the angler.

Fish-Bait-Kettles are made of tin, with a perforated lid, and a handle to carry them by.

The Drag-Hook is a long line of strong whipcord wound on a thumb-reel, and armed with a three-hooked blunt drag weighted with lead, so that when a hook is caught in weeds or other impediment, the drag may be thrown on the same spot, and the weed dragged away with the hook, or at all events the greater portion of the line may be saved.

The Clearing-Ring is intended for the same purpose, and is a jointed-ring of heavy metal which opens and closes again with a catch. It is attached to a long line like the last, and is passed upon the end of the rod

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open, and when closed is slipped down the reel-line as low as possible, and then drawn to land, bringing sometimes the hook and obstacle with it, but generally breaking the casting-line near the hook or about the shot. This does not act so well as the drag-hook when a float is used.

THE BAIT-BOX is merely a flat box perforated with small holes in the lid, for containing worms, or gentles, or dead minnows, in bran.

THE DISGORGER is an instrument for removing the hook from the throat of those fish which swallow their bait, and is made of various forms. One end should be forked, and the other perforated with a hole, and ending with a sharp-cutting round surface like a spatula.

CHAPTER III.

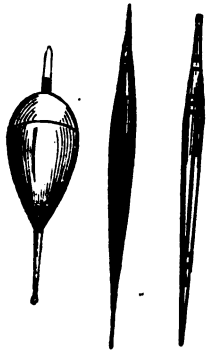
BOTTOM-FISHING AND TROLLING.

SECT. 1.—THE FISH ANGLED FOR IN THIS WAY.

EVERY fish enumerated in the first chapter may be taken by this mode of angling; even the noble salmon and the wary trout may thus be captured. But almost all require some slight modification of the apparatus or bait employed, and of the mode of using them; and therefore each must form a subject to be studied by itself. Commencing with the smaller varieties of fish, and those most easily caught, I shall take all in the order of their usual presentation to the young angler. With each variety it will be my purpose to specify—first, the kind of rod, hook, and line to be used; secondly, the best bait; thirdly, the time and place best suited for each kind of fish; and fourthly, the mode of fishing.

SECT. 2.—FISHING FOR MINNOWS, AND SIMILAR SMALL FISH.

THE ROD, LINE, AND HOOKS for the minnow should all be fine and delicate, especially the last, which must be of the smallest size. Three or four hooks should be whipped on fine gut or strong horse-hair, and attached to a short line of horse-hair or silk, leaving the hooks each about three or four inches longer than the one next above it. This is better than the paternoster line, which will be described in section 3. A crow-quill float, and any light but stiff rod, will complete the angling requisite for this fish. A plummet may be wanted to obtain the exact depth of water, but the eye is generally a sufficient guide.



THE BAIT should be of very small red worms, or pieces of them.

MINNOWS ARE FOUND from March till Michaelmas in small gravelly brooks, and sometimes in large rivers. They take the worm freely all day, especially in warm still weather.

THE LOWEST HOOK AND BAIT SHOULD BE SUFFERED to float tolerably near the ground, and the highest at mid-water, above which these fish seldom feed. At the slightest indication of a bite the rod should be rapidly raised, as by this means many minnows which would otherwise be lost will be taken, while the worm is only partially in the mouth. In this way it is that the juvenile angler, with his crooked pin, succeeds in catching this little fish.

THE STICKLEBACK may be taken exactly in the same way. They form an excellent bait for the larger kinds of fish, with their spines removed.

THE BULLHEAD lies under stones, and it is therefore to be angled for with a single small hook, and the bait must be suffered to float along very near the bed of the river. These fish are very voracious, and rush out with great greediness upon the bait as it passes by their place of retreat.

THE LOACH also may be taken with the same kind of tackle and bait; but as it is neither a good fish for the table nor suited

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to the palates of larger fish, it is seldom sought after. None of these fish require ground-baits, as they are also so plentiful when they exist as to be easily obtained in large numbers.

Sect. 3.—Bleak-Fishing.

The Rod, Line, and Hook.—Two kinds of line are used for this fish—one similar to that described under Minnow-fishing at page 281; the other, usually called *a paternoster line*, which is made as follows:—A bullet is attached to a strong line, and is dragged along the bottom of the river by it. A few inches above the bullet a strong and long bristle is whipped at right angles to the line, forming a cross with it (hence its name). To the ends of this bristle fine hooks are whipped in the ordinary way; and at intervals of seven, eight, or nine inches up the line other bristles are attached in a similar manner. In this mode four, six, or eight baited hooks are dragged along at intervals above the bed of the river, each hook being kept from entanglement by the stiffness of the bristles.

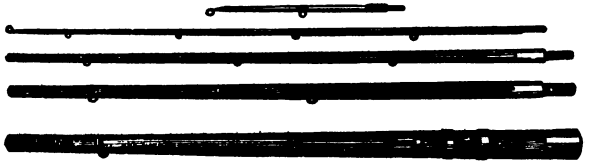
The Baits for the bleak are gentles, red-worms, caddis, paste, &c. Ground Bait should be used when it is intended to take any quantity of these fish; but as they are not considered very good eating, it is seldom that this amount of trouble is taken.

The Haunts of the Bleak are exceedingly extensive, it being found in almost every British river. Mid-water is the best general depth to angle for them; but in warm weather they swim very near the surface, and in cold, quite on the bed of the river. In the former case they prefer the fly, and may then be taken in large numbers by whipping with a small black gnat, which forms a very good introduction to the young fly-fisher, as I shall hereafter show. They spawn from the middle of March to the end of April.

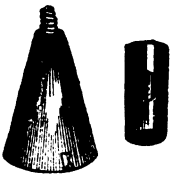
In Fishing for Bleak there is no great art; all that is required is to pull them out at once, but not so rapidly as with the minnow, as they do not adhere to the worm with the same pertinacity as those little fishes do.

Sect. 4.—Fishing for Dace and Roach.

The Tackle for these fish is the same for both, and they may be taken precisely in the same way in every respect. The Rod should be very light, but yet stiff and long. It is generally of bamboo or cane, about seventeen or eighteen feet long, or even a foot longer, as it is a most essential point in this kind of fishing to command a great extent of water without showing the person, and yet to drop the bait very gently into it. A light General Rod answers the purpose pretty well, and the spare tops for fly-fishing will avail for common purposes in that department. Such a rod should be about seventeen feet long, and made of hickory or split-cane; and will suit either for trolling, spinning, or barbel-fishing with



the lob-worm. (See woodcut, which gives a good idea of the common general rod in its cheapest form, with a spare top for fly-fishing.) The Line should be very fine down to the Float, which should be of swan-quill. Below the float it should be either of single hair or fine gut, with the knots unwhipped with silk in order to be more invisible. The length of hair being longer than those of gut, the knots are not so frequent; but as the hair is not so strong as the gut, more dexterity is required in landing a large fish. The Hook should be No. 10 or 12; and enough split-shot should be attached to the line, beginning about a foot above the hook, to immerse the float three-fourths of its length. The shot



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should be No. 1 to 4. A plummet is required to ascertain the depth of the water, of either of the forms given in the annexed woodcut, one of which is of solid lead, the other of sheet-lead rolled upon the line.

THE BAITS FOR ROACH AND DACE are any of the following:—Gentles, paste coloured with vermilion, worms well scoured, and grubs or salmon-roe; the two first being almost exclusively used in the neighbourhood of London. GROUND-BAITS are very generally used, and should be composed of some of the above baits, used on the principles described in page 269.

THE LOCALITIES best suited for dace and roach-fishing are moderately rapid and deep streams. Dace are fond of mill-streams, but are also to be found in more sluggish parts of the rivers. Both are chiefly to be found at the bottom. THE TIME when roach are in season is from August to the following spring. Dace spawn in March and April, but soon come in season again, and may be taken from June to December.

THESE FISH MAY BE ANGLED FOR in the following manner:—First, plumb the depth and allow your bait to float near the bottom, by adjusting your line to the required length. Then keep your eye on the float, and when you see it move downwards from the biting of the fish, strike smartly, but gently. The rod, line, float, and bait ought to be perpendicular to one another, and no more line should be used than necessary, so as to loose no time in striking; which evolution should be from the wrist only, the arm being nearly motionless the while. When the fish is securely hooked great care must be used in landing him, as he will break the line inevitably if he is jerked, or if not carefully humoured, especially if hair is used in lieu of gut.

GRAINING, RUD, AND AZURINE may be taken in the same way as the above. Rud require a rather larger hook, and a coarser line will not interfere with their capture.

SECT. 5.—CHUB-FISHING.

THE CHUB is a larger fish than the dace, but otherwise very similar in habits and appearance, so that a young chub is often taken for an old and mature dace, and *vice versâ*. Several modes of taking this fish are practised, one of which is similar to that already described for roach and dace, but requiring a larger hook and stronger tackle. Being a very violent fish when first hooked, although soon giving in, it is very apt to break fine lines. It also frequents weedy places and stumps of trees.

SINKING AND DRAWING is therefore practised, because by this mode the line is not so likely to be entangled as with the ordinary line and float. A strong rod and line are used for this purpose, without a float, and the line is shotted so as just to sink it. When the hook, which should be about No. 6, is baited, drop it gently in some clear place and suffer it to sink to the bottom, then immediately draw it up again as obliquely as the weeds, &c., will allow, and with a quivering or gently jerking motion to imitate the actions of aquatic insects. Chub are also taken in large numbers by dipping with the natural fly or humble-bee, or with a very good imitation of the latter which is sold by the tackle-makers.

SEC. 6.—GUDGEON-FISHING.

THE TACKLE FOR THE GUDGEON should be as fine as that for the minnow, and the hook or hooks No. 8 or 9. Very fine shot also must be used, and a light quill-float.

THE BAIT which is the most killing for gudgeon is the red-worm, next to which is the gentle or caddis-worm, and then come the various pastes. Instead of ground-baiting, raking the bottom with a long rake is practised, which has the same effect in attracting the fish, and in which alone gudgeon-fishing differs from that described in the first section of this chapter.

In the Thames gudgeon are taken in great numbers from the punt, but in smaller rivers there is no necessity for this accessory. Gudgeon spawn in April, and by the 1st of June are in good season, after which they may be taken in almost all our rivers.

THE HOOK must always trail on the ground, as this fish invariably feeds there. It should be steadily drawn along, or suffered to remain quiescent, some fishermen using several rods at once. The moment a bite is seen, the wrist should be raised and the fish landed, as it is too small to endanger the tackle, however light and frail.

SECT. 7.—FISHING FOR BARBEL.

THE LEDGER-LINE is that most commonly used for taking this fish, and may be described as follows:—The line should be of single gut, three or four feet long, with a No. 5 hook tied on it, and a single large shot firmly fixed about a foot from the hook. Upon the part of the gut above this shot a bullet with a hole in it should freely play, and the ledger-line, after the bullet is dropped on it, may be attached to a long silk or hair-line in the usual way. If the punt is used the ROD should be short and stiff, but if the fishing is from the bank of the river, one at least 16 feet long will

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be required, but still stiff and free from play. The LINE should be 30 or 40 yards in length, and of good strength; and a winch will of course be required.

FLOAT-ANGLING is also practised for the barbel, and in roach-fishing it is very common to hook this fish, but as they plunge very desperately when hooked, they often break away with the fine tackle used in roach-fishing. When the barbel is the chief object in float-fishing, the line must be of very strong gut, and a cork-float should be used. (See woodcut of floats at page 281.) The rod may be the general rod already described, or the light one adapted for roach and dace-fishing. A long line and winch are doubly necessary in this kind of fishing.

GROUND-BAITING for barbel is always practised, and without it there is very little chance of good sport in any given locality. If, therefore, the fishing is to be from a punt, the ground-baits should have been diligently used over-night, and repeated at intervals till the end of the fishing, or it will be in vain. The BEST BAITS are—for clear water, red-worms well-scoured, gentles, and greaves; in muddy water, lob-worms or marsh-worms, cheese or paste may be used; but whatever bait is fixed on should completely cover the hook; thus, one, two, or three gentles will be required; two red-worms, or a lump of greaves. If lob-worms are employed, one will generally conceal the hook; but as these fish gradually suck their bait into their small mouths, it is important to conceal the hook not only from the eye, but from their sense of touch.

THE SEASON FOR BARBEL-FISHING is from March to the end of October, and the most likely time is quite late in the evening; but though they do not bite freely till then, they may be taken during the whole of the afternoon; in the early morning, also, they take a bait as freely as in the evening, and especially after rainy weather. The most likely spots where they may be found are the deeps of rapid rivers, where they lie in small shoals; under bridges they are very apt to lie, and round piles, or at the foot of flood-gates clear of the rapids, they often remain quite stationary for hours, and are then sometimes taken by unfair means—such as eel-spears, or landing-hooks, &c.; or by means of a large treble-hook dragged over their backs with some little knack, however unfair it may be.

THE MODE OF FISHING FOR BARBEL with the ledger-line and punt is as follows; the punt should be moored across the space already ground-baited over night; the short rod is then to be held over the stream, and the bait gently dropped into the water, keeping the line moderately "taut," but not so much so as to prevent the fish pulling the bait slightly through the bullet, but still enough to show when he is actually sucking it in. When the point of the rod indicates this action strike smartly, and the hook is sure to get secure hold of his mouth, when, unless he is a very large fish, he is quite safe; but if very large, his struggles with his tail will be likely to break the line, and even sometimes to carry away the top joint of the rod. In this case—that is, if he is a strong fish, the line must be suffered to run out as far as the weeds, &c., will allow; but it must always be managed so that the fish is kept in clear water, as he fights most energetically among piles of weeds. A landing-net or hook should always be at hand in such a case, and an assistant will then save all trouble by bringing him to shore; but if this can be avoided without danger of losing the fish, and the sport is desired to be prolonged, he may be played till exhausted, and then brought out without risk by the landing-net used in the punt. The same mode may be adopted in fishing from the shore, but here, as the angler can run with his fish if the weeds are not very rife, he may play him to great advantage. Some anglers consider the sport afforded by this fish almost equal to that of the trout, and superior to the grayling.

SECT. 8.—TENCH AND CARP-FISHING, ALSO CRUCIAN AND BREAM.

THE TACKLE for these fish should be as follows:—ROD, an ordinary bottom-rod—the general one described at page 282, will suffice; LINE of plaited silk or twisted hair, with a good length of stout gut; FLOAT of cork or swan-quill; HOOK, No. 6 or 7. A PLUMMET will always be required. Sometimes, as in fishing for chub, *sinking* and *drawing* are practised exactly as there described.

GROUND-BAITING over-night is always to be practised for carp or tench if the punt is to be used; and if the angler fishes from the bank, he should cast in a little of this useful accessory every few minutes.

THE BEST BAITS are a couple of red worms or gentles; sometimes one of each will take the fancy of the carp, which is a very fickle and cautious fish, and very difficult to bring to hand. Taylor advocates green peas, which are said by him to be very efficacious; but all sorts of baits succeed at times and fail at others. The

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angler, therefore, who is anxious to take carp, may try caddis, bees, grasshoppers, and in fact the whole range of baits described at pages 270 and 271.

CARP ARE IN SEASON from February to September; TENCH do not come in season quite at the same time, as they spawn in May and June, and are then out of condition till August. Both are usually met with only in ponds and ornamental waters, though they are also taken with the net in running but sluggish streams, but are seldom killed with a bait anywhere but in strictly-preserved waters, as they are soon alarmed, and are then rendered extremely cunning and wary. Both take a bait better after rain than at any other time. The deepest and stillest parts of the river or pond are those where these fish are the most likely to be found, but in summer they are very fond of basking near the surface among the weeds, and it is then extremely difficult to persuade them to take any bait.

IN FISHING FOR EITHER TENCH OR CARP, great care must be taken by the angler to keep well out of sight, as they are so cautious as to refuse all baits when alarmed by the sight of man. The line must also be very carefully and lightly dropped into the water, and not even the shadow of the rod allowed to fall over their haunts. Tench lie in the mud, and can seldom be tempted out of it; but by plumbing the water carefully, and patiently suspending the bait a very few inches above the mud, they may sometimes be enticed out of their beds. For the carp two or three rods may be used, as the bait must be left for a long time quietly in one spot, where the carp will often watch it most jealously for some time, and then when perfectly satisfied of its freedom from guile he will at last take it. Even with half a dozen rods there is no danger of the angler being overdone with more than one fish at a time. The bait should be suspended about a foot from the bottom.

THE CRUCIAN may be angled for exactly in the same way as carp, but it is so rare a fish as seldom to be presented to the angler, except as an accidental take.

BREAM, also, will be found to require the same kind of tackle and management as carp and tench, but as they bite freely enough they do not require either so much patience or caution as these fish. They are chiefly found in deep but rapid rivers running through rich alluvial soils.

SECT. 9.—PERCH-FISHING, INCLUDING THE RUFF OR POPE.

FOR SMALL PERCH, such as are most commonly met with, a "general rod" will suffice; and the common line with good-sized gut, and a No. 4 or 5 hook baited with lob-worms, or almost any other worm, or with the caddis, caterpillar, or wasp-grub. These baits must be varied till some one is successful; or if it is known beforehand what bait suits the particular locality, that one should be selected. The paternoster line, armed with various baits, may be used if the angler is not in possession of the above kind of information; and as the perch swims and feeds at all depths, it is the best kind of tackle in deep water. In rivers where many weeds exist, or where there are piles, or roots, or trees, this tackle is not so manageable, and the sinking and drawing plan must be adopted.

FOR LARGE PERCH, the minnow, either dead or alive, is the best bait; and both may be used at discretion. For open and clear water, or in running streams, the dead minnow, with the spinning-tackle as described at page 270, is the most killing bait; or the gudgeon may be used according to the plan described in the same page, with the parr-tail; and which, with the perch, I have known a most efficient lure. The gorge-hook (page 271) is also successful, and is particularly serviceable in awkward and weedy rivers, where the spinning-tackle can scarcely be used.

THE SEASON FOR PERCH is from February till October, during which long period they bite with varying degrees of readiness, and at almost all hours of the day. It is generally supposed that windy weather is the most likely to tempt these fish, or at all events that they are as free to take the bait then as at other times. Such, however, is not the result of my own experience, as I have always found a marked difference in perch as well as other fish in connection with strong winds, and also with the time of day. Young anglers, therefore, should take this *dictum* with some caution.

LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE MODE OF USING THE BAIT need be made from those recommended for roach and dace, if the perch sought for are small; but in localities where large perch may be expected, and where the live or dead fish bait is used, some considerable variation must be practised. Hitherto I have not had occasion to describe the mode of using THE LIVE AND DEAD FISH BAITS; but as we are now considering their adoption in taking perch, it will be proper here to enter upon the subject. I have already (page 271) alluded to the mode of applying the live minnow to

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the hook, or rather of inserting the latter in the back of the fish close to its fin. When this has been done, and the gut is properly shotted with about two or three No. 1 shot, quietly enter the fish at some distance from the shore, and let it take its own course swimming where it chooses. A float is only a hindrance to the live bait; and as it is dragged about on the surface of the water, it serves to attract the attention of the perch, and is very apt to scare them away. As soon as the perch is seen or felt to take the bait, strike pretty firmly, though not with much force. Live frogs may be used in the same way, as well as newts.

SPINNING for perch is practised as follows:—The bait being applied according to either of the methods described at page 270, the angler should use the general rod with the short top; a reel and reel-line of plaited silk, or twisted hair and silk will be necessary, and a good length of strong gut (or, when pike are likely to be met with, of gimp), armed with one or two box-swivels. With this apparatus the angler proceeds as follows:—He first casts or throws the minnow down the stream, if there is any, or, if in still water, as far out as he can; then, pulling the bait gently yet firmly to him for a yard or so, it revolves rapidly on its axis, and must be allowed to sink for a few inches at the end of that distance by his ceasing to draw in. The angler then repeats the operation till he brings the bait out of the water, when a cast in a fresh direction must be made, but exactly as before in principle. It is obvious that for this purpose a long rod is required to command a greater extent of water, and a more numerous series of spins, and that running water materially assists the spinning; still, in dead water a well mounted minnow or gudgeon may be spun with great effect, and will kill there in preference to any other bait, except perhaps a live one of the same species.

THE GORGE-HOOK is used with the full-sized trolling-rod and a long line, a yard or two of which is pulled out in a loop clear of the reel, and held loose in the left hand. Cast as gently as possible the minnow from you down-stream, or out into the water if it is still. In thus casting, the loose portion of line is expended, and the bait is thrown considerably further than it otherwise would be. Then begin to wind up a little at a time, stop, and wind again; thus imitating the actions of the living small fish represented by the dead bait. When the length of line is reduced to a manageable amount, the action may be varied a little, and the fish may be eased downwards or upwards, or among piles or other likely places; but in all cases proceeding by slight jerks, and at the same time not too rapidly. When the bait is thus brought to hand again, repeat as before, and try all likely spots—first casting and drawing over and through the nearest places, and then extending the reach to the most distant ones. The expert angler will always study the actions of living fish, and endeavour to imitate them, which example is far better than any precept that can be given in print.

SECT. 10.—PIKE-FISHING.

As these fish are strong and often of good size, and are furnished with sharp teeth, the tackle must be in proportion. The rod is necessarily longer and stronger than that known as the "general rod," and must be of the kind known as a "trolling rod," which may be described as follows:—It should be here mentioned that pike are taken with the minnow or gudgeon in three different ways—first, with live bait; secondly, with dead bait, in a way called "snap-fishing;" and thirdly, with the gorge-hook, on principles similar to those already described. The first and last of these modes require a long and tolerably stiff rod, while snap-fishing must be practised with the top joints of the rod reduced in length and of greater stiffness. This will serve to make the following account more intelligible. The angler who is very *exigeant* in his desires for the most perfect implements of his craft, will perhaps require two separate rods of varying sizes for each purpose, so as to suit broad and narrow rivers, as well as large and small fish; but the more easily satisfied fisherman will make one rod of the following dimensions serve every purpose:—A bamboo rod is the lightest, and is yet strong and stiff enough for any practised fisherman; it will not, however, bear very rough usage, and for very large pike the butt and second joint should be of some light yet tough wood, such as holly, which may be bored for the sake of diminishing its weight, and also to accommodate within its cavity, as in a place of security, the small top joints. Of these it should have three—one short and stiff, and two others similar to one another, longer and more elastic than the first. The short one is made entirely of whalebone, and is not more than twelve or eighteen inches long; the longer tops are made two-thirds of hickory or lancewood, and the remainder of whalebone. These rods are generally made in five joints of nearly equal length; the first,

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second, and last as above described, and the intermediate two joints of bamboo. They are united by the ordinary brass ferules in the usual way, but sometimes other methods are practised; but there is so little occasion for any alteration that it is unnecessary to take up the reader's time by any further description of them. Almost all trolling-rods used in the south are furnished with rings which are made to stand up from the rod, in order to allow the line to traverse their openings with greater facility. These are usually made of broad brass ferules encircling the rod, and having lesser rings of wire riveted into them; but a much lighter and cheaper plan answers perfectly well, and may be described as follows:—Take a piece of wire of sufficient strength, and bend it into a ring of the usual size, leaving a short tail on each side; turn these tails to a right angle each way, and flatten the ends so that they will lie along the side of the rod, when they may be whipped in the usual way. They thus form stand-up rings, easily removable by cutting the whipping silk, and very capable of being restored, if by any accident they are injured. One of these to the head of each joint, and a second to the middle of the last are about the proper number. Some northern anglers, including that high authority, Mr. Stoddart, approve of the same kind of ring as is used in ordinary rods, and which is only attached by a piece of quill, or other suitable material; but I confess that though I have the highest opinion of Mr. Stoddart's judgment in general, yet in this instance I cannot agree with him, as there can be no doubt in my mind that the fixed and upright ring allows the line to run much more freely than the ordinary one such as he recommends. A large reel is wanted, capable of holding from thirty-five to seventy yards of line, according to the nature of the fish and extent of water intended to be fished. This reel should have a simple large barrel without multipliers. FLOATS may or may not be used, but if used they should be of cork. The REEL-LINE must be strong, and the plaited silk is that form now usually adopted, as it is found to be more free from "kinking" than any other. An essential accessory to pike-fishing is the swivel, which may be either the box-swivel or the hook-swivel; the latter differing from the former only in having a small hook at one end. These are attached to lengths of *gut*, or more usually *gimp*, forming with their help what are called double or single swivel-traces.

THE SINGLE SWIVEL-TRACE consists of about twelve inches of gut or gimp, with a hook-swivel at one end and a loop of its own substance at the other, which attaches it to the reel-line by the usual draw bow-knot. THE DOUBLE-SWIVEL-TRACE has, in addition, an extra length of gut or gimp, ending also in a loop, and between the two a box-swivel by which the tendency to twist in spinning is still further diminished. In both cases the hook-swivel receives the loop of the hook-length of gut or gimp *after it is baited*; and in both instances, also, swan-shot or lead, in some form, is required to sink the bait; and it is attached in greater or less weight, according to circumstances, to the gimp close to the hook-swivel.

THE HOOKS will be more particularly described under each mode of fishing; and for their application to the bait a needle, called a BAITING-NEEDLE, is required.

A LANDING-NET, OR HOOK, will be required, as pike are sometimes of such a size as to demand their assistance. The former is merely a circle of iron, either plain or jointed, with a handle which may be made to take on and off for the sake of convenience; and armed with a deep net, which receives the fish. The hook is intended to supply the place of the net, but is a clumsy substitute. (See page 280, and accompanying woodcut.)

THE BAITS used for pike are exceedingly various, reaching from the common lob-worm and ordinary hook, which will often take jack—*alias* small pike—through all the degrees of live minnows and other fish, as well as frogs and newts, dead minnows and gudgeons, artificial minnows and gudeons, and even the artificial fly. These various baits are used also in almost as many different ways, of which three have been already described in the list of baits, under the heads of "The live Minnow-bait," "The Spinning-minnow," and "The Gorge-hook-bait." But besides these, the snap-hook bait is employed at those times when pike are shy of gorging, and inclined to eject the bait, or *blow* it out, as the angler denominates this act. The snap-hook is either the plain or the spring snap-hook, and they are both used for live as well as dead fish baits; though the spring snap-hook is very apt to destroy the life of the fish very rapidly, and is a very cruel mode of baiting. The plain snap is made in several ways, as follows: first plan—two hooks (No. 4) should be tied back to back, then to these tie another smaller hook (No. 8) together with a piece of wire ending in an eye (see snap-hooks, *fig.* 1).

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To the eye is whipped a piece of gimp, and the other end of this has a loop by which it is attached to the hook-swivel in the usual way. In fixing on the bait proceed as follows: take a good-sized gudgeon or small roach, or a perch with the back fin removed, arm the gimp with a baiting-needle and insert it behind the back fin, bringing it out again at the mouth and drawing the gimp after it, so that the short hook stands with the point rising out of the back, and the others are one on each side the belly; this bait ought to spin well. Second plan—exactly similar to the mode recommended by Mr. Stoddart of applying three hooks to the parr-tail, only that in England it is used with a whole fish, and the hooks point towards the head. Mr. Stoddart's plan is no doubt the best, and with a tail of the roach, dace, or perch, is admirably adapted to pike-fishing. Third plan—in this mode four hooks are used, which are separately whipped on to two pieces of gimp, looped at the other ends; one about three-quarters of an inch in length, the other about three times as long. After arming them with the baiting-needle, they are each passed through the fish, the short one at the shoulder, the other near the tail, and both the loops being brought out at the mouth are attached to a hook-swivel, after which the mouth is sewn up and the bait is finished and ready for use; though sometimes, in addition, a leaden weight is sewn up in the mouth to sink the bait. THE SPRING SNAP-BAIT is a more complicated machine, and is composed of a case which connects and keeps in place the shanks of the hooks, which, when in the case, resemble the common snap-hook (*fig.* 1), but which, when drawn out, expand by their own elasticity, and assume the form indicated in *fig.* 2. This is sometimes applied to a live fish, but usually to a dead roach or gudgeon, or to a small bream. The bait should be about six ounces in weight, for a smaller one will not effectually conceal the hooks. In baiting the hooks insert the small hook in the back of the fish, near the back fin, taking a good hold of the flesh and allowing the point to project a little way out of the skin, and the other two hooks to lie one on each side of the belly. The mode in which this acts is as follows: as soon as the pike seizes the fish in its mouth he pulls slightly on the line, which causes the angler to strike, and this action draws the case from the shanks of the hooks and allows them to expand themselves, and thus prevent the pike from blowing the bait out of his mouth.

LEDGER-BAITS, OR BANK-RUNNERS, are often adopted in pike-fishing, and are merely used as a mode of dispensing with the rod. The bait is a live minnow or frog, attached to a long line wound on a reel at the top of a strong pointed staff which is driven into the bank, and the line suspended over the water by a forked stick; a cork float, is used, and the fish or frog-bait is suffered to swim about; the angler visiting his ledger-baits every half-hour or so. This, like the following, is a poaching kind of fishing, more adapted for filling the fish-kettle than for showing sport. Its worthy companion is The TRIMMER, which is a floating reel, allowed full liberty on the lake which is to be fished, and of which several are thus set afloat at one time. This also is baited with a live fish, and its action is similar to the bank-runner, except that as the trimmer follows the hooked fish it does not require so long a line. The hook is sometimes a single one inserted in the back, and at others a double snap-hook passed obliquely through the body. Two sorts of trimmer are described by Mr. Daniel—the first is made of flat cork, or light wood, painted, seven or eight inches in diameter, circular in shape, with a groove in the edge deep enough to receive a fine whipcord or silk line twelve yards long (the proper rule is five yards longer than the depth of the water). A small stick, two inches long, stands up from the water, with a slit in the end. In setting this the bait is attached with a double hook, which is passed obliquely beneath the skin only, and the line, at about three feet from the bait, is gently dropped into the slit, so that when the pike is hooked he tilts up the cork and disengages the line from the slit, which only serves to keep the bait at a proper depth, and near enough to the floating cork. The second kind instead of being circular is made in the form of a wedge; and the line in place of being coiled round the edge, is wound in the form of a cross over the float, like the cotton over an old-fashioned card. It answers better for weedy places, perhaps, but on the whole is scarcely to be preferred to the common plan.

PIKE ARE IN SEASON from May to February, but the best time for the sport of taking them with the hook is the period immediately before the weeds shoot, and again in October when they have rotted. The latter is the true pike season, as they are then firm and fleshy, and also voracious, so as to afford good sport. This fish is usually taken of good size in artificial

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waters, or in deep alluvial rivers. In these situations there are almost always great quantities of weeds, and when they exist in full vigour it is almost impossible to land large pike, even if they are hooked. The bait also can scarcely, at such times and situations, be properly manœuvred, and hence, it is by common consent considered that pike, though perfectly edible, should not be angled for till after Michaelmas, from which time till February the water is in good order for their capture.

THE MODE OF FISHING for pike varies with the particular hook and bait employed. If the LIVE BAIT is used with the ordinary hook, it can only be successful at times when the fish are voracious and ready for any bait, which, indeed, they often are. If this happens to be the case, the bait must be gently passed into the water, and will be more easily managed with a float, as with the length of line required in pike-fishing it is impossible otherwise to maintain a proper depth for the bait, which should as far as possible be made to swim at mid-water. This is effected by the float keeping the bait up, and the shotted line preventing its rising to the surface. If the bait seeks the weeds or other shelter it must be stopped, and if dull and sluggish it must be stimulated by a gentle shaking of the rod. When removing the bait for a fresh throw, great care should be taken to do this gently, as a very little extra force will make a great difference in the duration of the life of the fish; and not only so, but the gentle mode will give the bait less pain than any other. The use of live baits is always more or less cruel, and surely every unnecessary degree of pain should be avoided. When the bait is seized by the pike, which may be known by the float disappearing under the water, be very careful to allow him to carry it off without restraint, and for this purpose draw off the line with the hand and let it run loosely through the rings. If the slightest impediment occurs he will be sure to blow it out, and your hopes are blasted. After a short time, during which he has been quietly gorging the bait, he will again move off, and then is the time to strike, which you may do sharply, but not roughly. If this is cleverly done the fish is firmly attached to the line, which, if of good materials and the hooks equally efficient, will land your fish for you with the aid of a little skilful management. Pike may be played with great advantage, and a considerable increase to the interest of the sport. The principle consists in yielding to him for a time, by letting out the line as far as is prudent and the absence of weeds, &c., will allow; and when otherwise, making the elastic power of the rod withstand his progress by advancing the butt. In this way he will at last be tired out, and may then be landed with safety by means of the landing-net.

THE SNAP-BAIT is employed only when the fish are wary and inclined to eject the ordinary kind, and it is used as follows:—I have already (page 287) described the mode of arming the hook with the bait, and also the peculiarly short and stiff top to the rod which is required. This last is necessary in order to give increased quickness to the stroke. The chief difference in this mode from that last described consists in the striking, which should be done the moment the pike seizes the bait, when, if successful, he may be landed or played according to circumstances, as before described, or if not too large, pulled out at once over the shoulder. TROLLING, however, by means of the gorge-hook, is the most common mode of taking pike, and is also the most sportsmanlike, inasmuch as it is deprived of the stain of cruelty which attends upon live-bait fishing. It requires, as I have already observed, the full-sized trolling-rod, with long and strong line, a good-sized reel free from multipliers, and all the apparatus peculiar to the gorge-hook—viz., cork-float, swivel traces, gorge-hooks, and bait. When these are all artistically adjusted, the bait must be manœuvred in the manner already described at page 286 for perch, and it will generally be successful where good fish abound, and the fishing for them is attempted at the proper season. The butt of the rod should be rested against the thigh or groin, and it should be grasped by the hand about eighteen inches higher up, which will give the angler great power over his rod, and also leave the left hand at liberty to manage the line, a loop or two of which should be held in that hand, ready to "pay out," as the sailors say, when the bait is cast. When a pike has seized the bait, wait patiently, as already recommended, and the average time necessary for this exercise of patience will be about six minutes; then strike and play, or not, as before mentioned.

IN REMOVING THE BAIT FROM THE MOUTH of the pike after landing him, be careful of his jaws and teeth, which sometimes inflict severe wounds. The first thing to be done is to knock him on the head, which will enable you to recover your hooks and gimp at your leisure, whereas by attempting, by means of the disgorger, to remove them

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while he is alive, great risk is incurred not only to them, but to your own fingers. After he is quite dead, open the mouth, and if the bait is still there, after propping the mouth open, liberate the hooks with the knife, and remove the bait; but if this has been swallowed, make an incision into the stomach, and remove them through it. Very often the process is a delicate and tedious one, and many fish will require to be slit open from the mouth to the stomach before the hooks, if well fixed, can be so cleared as to allow the bait to be removed without injury to them or to the gimp.

Sec. 11.—Eel-Fishing.

The Apparatus which is used for taking eels is exceedingly various, inasmuch as almost every kind of hook is occasionally adopted. Some of the different modes and tackle have been already described, such as the ledger-line (under Barbel-fishing), the ordinary float-angling, &c. These may be used with eel-hooks and strong tackle; and the eel should be landed as quickly as possible after he is hooked, for the reason that he is otherwise sure to coil himself round some weed or pile, or other fixed object, and so set at defiance the efforts of the angler. Usually, however, these fish are taken at night, and the ledger-line answers very well for that purpose, the hook being mounted on strong whipcord or on gimp. The regular Night Line consists of a long and tolerably stout cord, to each end of which a brick or stone is attached weighing three or four pounds. At intervals of two or three feet a piece of whipcord or gimp eighteen inches long should be firmly tied, and armed with an ordinary eel-hook. When all are baited, drop one brick or stone gently into the water, then with a long pole or boat drop the other at the full length of the line, and leave the whole apparatus sunk till the next morning, when at early dawn they may be taken up again with a boat-hook, and the eels, if caught, removed. They should be set the last thing at night, that the bait may be fresh, and taken up at very early dawn.

Bobbing for Eels is practised with a common darning-needle and worsted, several lengths of which are strung with worms, and then, after being gathered into loops, they are united by a strong line to a piece of lead weighing nearly a pound, and pierced with a hole for the purpose of attachment to the line. The eels are taken by their teeth catching in the worsted.

Trimmers are set for eels exactly as for pike, except that the hooks should be eel-hooks.

Sniggling is another mode of taking eels, which is carried on during the day, and the apparatus consists in a strong needle about two inches long, a stout whipcord-line, which is whipped to the needle from the eye to the middle, from which part it is suspended, and a short rod with a notch at the end, and capable of being set at any angle or curve, for which purpose it is either made of flexible wire or with hinged joints. The needle is baited with the worm, which is drawn over both needle and line, and when the angler strikes he fixes the needle across the eel's throat.

The Eel-Spear is the most common of all the implements used in taking eels; but as it requires very little art, it is scarcely fitted for the sportsman's use, and is solely intended to be employed by those who take fish for profit. But the great bulk of the eels caught in this country are taken in traps set in the weirs of the rivers, when they run in the floods which are so constantly occurring.

The Best Baits for Eels are either live fish or lob-worms. Dead baits are not so readily taken, as there is no means during the night of simulating the motions of the living fish, as can be done with perch, trout, and pike, which take their food by day. Lob-worms, therefore, as being the most readily procured, and remaining alive on the hook for a considerable time, are the most common bait. The lampern is used in those rivers where it is met with, and is a very deadly bait. It requires care in its application not to injure the nine-eyes or gills, for if they are destroyed the fish soon dies, and lies motionless and unattractive. The hook, therefore, should be entered below them, leaving the head and these openings hanging free. It is too large a bait for any but full-sized eels, as the small ones pull off the pendant portions without hooking themselves.

Eels may be taken during the spring, summer, and autumn. They haunt the recesses of the banks, or lie in the mud or weeds during the day, leaving these places only at night for food. Ponds, canals, and alluvial rivers are the chief localities for these fish, but few rivers are totally free from them. In some, however, they absolutely swarm, and even in small brooks they may be taken in quantities amounting to many hundredweight during their runs or migrations.

The Modes of Taking these Fish vary with the apparatus employed. During the

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day, sniggling, bobbing, or ledger-line-fishing will be the most successful. The first is practised as follows:—Take the needle, armed and suspended as already described, and draw on it a large lob-worm in the following manner. Enter the eye of the needle at the head of the worm, and run it down till the whole needle is covered except the point, which is inserted in the notch or slit at the end of the rod, leaving the worm free. In this way the head of the worm is presented to the eel, and is conducted into his hole or haunt by the bent end of the rod. As this end can be set at any angle, it may be guided by round stumps or stones, and when it is gently insinuated as far as it will go, it is quietly left there. The line attached to the hook is held in the left hand, and as soon as the fish seizes the bait and has drawn it out of the cleft stick, slacken the line, and gently withdraw the stick; give a little time for the eel to swallow the bait, and then strike, when the needle will cross his throat, and hold him securely. Do not attempt at once to draw him out, but let him tire himself first, and when he is exhausted, pull him out. BOBBING is practised with the worms strung on worsted, as already described, and gathered up in links, which are to be attached to a line of whipcord about two yards long having a knot on it eight or ten inches from the worms, and the lead slipped down to that point. When the eels bite, their teeth stick in the worsted, and they may be gently pulled out before they disentangle themselves. This mode I have never seen practised, and I have great doubts of its efficiency with any but small eels. LEDGER-LINE-FISHING for eels is similar to that for barbel, described at page 284. For the purpose of taking eels by night, the trimmers may be set as for pike, or the night-line, as described at page 290.

SECT. 12.—BOTTOM-FISHING FOR COMMON-TROUT, LAKE-TROUT, AND SEA-TROUT.

THE BOTTOM-ROD for trouting should be at least seventeen feet long, and should be in fact similar to that described as the trolling rod for pike (see page 286). An ordinary TROUTING REEL and REEL LINE are sufficient for the purpose; and the casting line should have six lengths of good single-gut slightly stained with brown or brownish-green by means of common black or green tea. No silk should be used at the knots, but the simple angler's knot should be employed. THE HOOK for trout best adapted for the worm is No. 3 or 4, and for the minnow according to the kind of fishing adopted. When the hook is intended for the worm it ought to be whipped on to the gut with crimson silk, as the dark silk usually employed alters the colour of the transparent worm, and deters the trout from taking the bait. SHOT or lead, in some form, is required in order to sink the bait, and its weight should depend upon the strength of the current. Swan-shot answers best for this purpose, and, more or less, must be applied at the discretion of the angler when by the water-side he ascertains the rate of the current. A FLOAT will sometimes, though not always, be needful, and may be either of cork or swan-quill, the latter being to be preferred. THE HOOKS FOR SPINNING-TACKLE are similar to those described at page 270; and the GORGE-HOOK will be found treated of at page 271.

THE BAITS FOR TROUT used in bottom-fishing are chiefly worms and minnows, the latter either natural or artificial. Caddies, however, and caterpillars, with gentles and salmon-roe, are in some localities much prized. The worms which are the best for trout-fishing are the marsh-worm, the button-worm, and the brandling; the last being chiefly adapted to the smaller sizes of fish. They should be well scoured, and applied as follows;—Six or eight dozen worms will in all probability be required in a good day's fishing, and should be carried in some damp moss in an appropriate bait-box, or canvas-bag. In putting the worms on the hook, take the latter in the right hand, between the finger and thumb, then taking a worm in the left finger and thumb, insert the point of the hook near the head of the worm and run it along its body until the whole of the hook is concealed, and also a very short portion of the gut; in doing this great care should be taken not to expose any part of the hook, and especially the barb, which should not on any account penetrate the side of the worm. If the worm is too small to conceal this quantity of the hook and line, and also to leave a portion, at least an inch long, hanging free from the end, two may be applied; and if on the other hand it is too long, the barbed end may be brought through and re-entered an inch or so lower down, so as to pucker up a coil of the worm's length, which adds to its allurement, and at the same time prevents too long a free portion from hanging from the end. The worm is thus injured as little as possible, and will live a considerable time if not roughly used in the water. It should be examined every now and then to see that it is not broken. Grubs, caterpillars, and gentles are applied two or three

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at a time on the hooks—first one lengthwise, then one obliquely so as to leave each end free, and finally one lengthwise to conceal the barb. The mode of applying the dead minnow and parr-tail has been described under the head of "Baits," as well as the other ordinary methods of baiting the gorge-hook and the live minnow-tackle.

THE ARTIFICIAL MINNOW, in all its varieties, may be tried, and in some rivers and states of water will do great execution. In none, however, will it take equally well with a good and well-baited real minnow, and if these can be obtained, it is useless to attempt to take fish with an inferior article. The DEVIL-BAIT is also sometimes successful; indeed, trout are so capricious, that it is difficult at all times to say beforehand what they will take, and what refuse. I have already mentioned and described Mr. Blacker's modification of this bait.

THE COMMON TROUT is found in almost all the clear, gravelly, and quick-running streams throughout the three kingdoms, and sometimes, though not in the same perfection, in streams of an opposite character. They spawn in the autumn, the exact time varying in different localities; and they come into season in the spring, when also their time of perfection will be early or late, in accordance with the nature of their *habitat*. A low temperature seems rather to accelerate than retard their condition; and many of the Scotch streams are much earlier than those of the southern and western parts of the island. After August trout are not fit for the sport, being full of roe, or else spent from the operation of spawning. For bottom-fishing, the deeper and stiller parts of the stream answer better than the very rough freshes, though even for this kind of fishing perfectly still water is not so well calculated as that rate of stream which will move the bait without destroying its form or texture. The great lake-trout is met with in a few of the large lakes in Scotland, while the sea-trout are common in all the Scotch salmon-rivers. Under this term, so well known to anglers, are comprehended the bull-trout, the salmon-trout, and the finnock or herling.

THE VARIOUS MODES OF TAKING TROUT will be now entered upon. First, fishing with the worm is practised by obtaining all the apparatus and bait described at page 291; the angler then, with his wading-boots on, if he uses them, quietly wades into a part of the river which will command an extensive sweep of likely water; or, if preferring *terra firma*, he keeps as much as possible out of sight of the fish upon a part of the bank suitable for his purpose, and below the water to be fished. It must be known, that the worm should in all cases be cast up-stream, and suffered to float down again, for reasons which will be clear enough when explained as follows:—first, the trout always lie head up-stream, and therefore do not see the angler so well below them as above; secondly, the bait floats gently down without injury, which must be done to it if dragged against stream; thirdly, in hooking the fish, the barb is much more likely to lay hold in this way than if he is struck in the line of the axis of his body; and fourthly, the water is not disturbed by the wader till it has been already fished. The angler swings or casts his worm as far up-stream as he can, using as long a line as he can easily manage, and no more, and suffering it to float down with the stream till within a short distance of the place where he is standing, when it should be lifted and recast. When a fish is felt to bite or lay hold of the worm, wait a few seconds till he has done nibbling, and the moment he is running off with it strike smartly but tenderly with the wrist, not with the whole power of the arm, and proceed to land your fish with as little delay as possible.

GRUBS, CATERPILLARS, GENTLES, &c., are all used in the same way, and will serve the angler well in many localities, but as a general bait for trout they are not equal to the worm. Fishing with the salmon-roe will be found more particularly described at the end of this section.

IN USING THE LIVE MINNOW, the hook (of size No. 3) should be entered at the back-fin, and the barb should stand up a little above the surface; the line then being shotted, and a swan-quill float applied at about three feet from the hook, the bait is suffered to swim about in any direction but that of weeds, or other dangerous spots in the bed of the river. As, however, trout are chiefly found in strong running streams, and as in such situations some force must be exerted upon the minnow in keeping it from running with the stream, its life is soon destroyed, and therefore the live minnow is not so well adapted for trout fishing as for perch or pike; but in those rivers whose current is comparatively slow, and which are nevertheless the haunts of large trout—as, for instance, the Thames, the Severn, the Warwickshire Avon, &c., the minnow may be used alive with advantage, keeping it out of the rough water which is always at the foot of weirs and waterfalls, where dead or artificial minnows are much more useful.

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THE DEAD MINNOW USED WITH SPINNING TACKLE, according to one or other of the modes recommended at page 271, is most suited for taking large trout; and the precise style of fishing with these baits is as follows; but the angler should understand that the principle on which he conducts his operations is not that of a slavish imitation of the motions of the natural live minnow, such as will answer to a certain extent with the pike and perch, which are less wary than the trout, but rather to produce such a quick and constant spin of the bait as shall conceal the hooks from the fish to be caught. The principal point, therefore, is to fix the bait on the hooks so as to spin well, and to last in this state a long time; and thus to avoid as much as possible the renewing of the bait, by which time is lost, and generally just at the most valuable period of the day. No bait comes so near perfection in these several points as the parr-tail, and it will, I am persuaded, as far as a limited trial will allow of an opinion, be found to be better suited than any other to spinning for trout, in all streams where the current is strong. I have already remarked that gudgeon, or other fish of the same size, in the absence of the parr, will be large enough for this purpose. When the bait is properly applied, according to the mode recommended at page 272, the line should be cast as gently as possible by means of the trolling-rod, taking care not to injure the texture of the fish-bait by jerking it violently, and therefore avoiding too long a line and too forcible a throw. Underhand casting does less damage than when the bait is thrown overhand, and by its adoption the splash in its fall into the water is also much less considerable. In working the bait everything depends upon the strength of the stream; but the rule always is to make the minnow spin as fast as possible without injury to its texture. Thus, when it is drawn against the stream, it may be steadily brought towards the hand, and made to revolve, chiefly by the action of the current. If, however, it is drawn down stream, a series of jerks must be given, or it will not spin sufficiently fast; and yet if the pull is maintained so as to keep up the spinning at the same rate throughout, the casting-line itself makes a very prominent ripple, and by the overdoing of the attempt serves to scare away the fish. The line should always be well shotted, as the minnow will otherwise rise too near the surface, and no float will be required, inasmuch as the bait is always at the end of a "taut" line. Mr. Stoddart also recommends the adoption of a plain hook, baited with a minnow as when using a worm, running it in at the tail and bringing it out at the mouth; after which he hitches the gut over the tail to suit the bait in its proper position. With this he fishes as with a worm in low and clear states of the water; but as I have never seen this bait used I cannot speak as to its efficiency. It is exactly the reverse of Izaak Walton's mode of entering the hook, and according to Mr. Stoddart's practice and theory, is much to be preferred to it. Colonel Hawker's mode of baiting the hook with the addition of side-hooks, is used in the same way as ordinary spinning tackle, and the minnow baited as he recommends will be found tolerably serviceable. It is merely the addition of the side-hooks to Izaak Walton's method of applying the hook, which has the objection of offering the wrong end to the trout, having the barb at the tail instead of the head. It is therefore no wonder that trout so often are missed when rushing at it, since they almost invariably endeavour to seize the head. This is the case with most predacious animals, which are instinctively made aware that this part is the most vital organ, and they almost always begin by eating the brain where such an organ exists. When fishing with the minnow well leaded and in deep water, the angler seldom sees the trout rush at his bait, but is warned by the sense of touch, rather than by his eyes that the trout is at it. At this moment the angler slackens his line gently for a couple of seconds, and then strikes with his wrist, using only a slight jerk. The trout is now either hooked or alarmed, but generally the former is the case, unless he is a very shy, wary old fox; in which case he is not likely to be again tempted on that day. If, however, the trout is seen approaching the minnow, the angler ought to endeavour, as far as his nerves will allow him, to continue the precise kind of motion which attracted the fish, until he not only *sees* him at the bait, but *feels* his pull, when he should proceed exactly as if all was out of sight. This, however, is a difficult task, and few young fishermen have sufficient command over themselves to avoid the mistake to which their attention is here directed. Every one who has hooked fish of any size with fine tackle must be aware how difficult it is, when commencing trout-fishing, to carry out in practice the theory which he has been endeavouring to realize for some time past; and each, in his turn, must have been made painfully conscious of the danger not only of striking too soon and too

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hard, but of attempting to land a large fish with fine gut before he is tired. My own early recollections satisfy me on this point; and I remember on one occasion losing a trout of at least five pounds weight, through excess of anxiety to land him rapidly and triumphantly; although, theoretically, I was fully aware of the folly of my proceedings. All of us, I have no doubt, could tell the same tale; and so it must ever be. Nothing but practice can give that steadiness of nerve and presence of mind which will enable the fisherman, or any other sportsman, to do the right thing at the right time. In bringing the minnow home, if the angler is on the bank, he should be very careful to lift it from the water slowly and quietly, as it is very often at that moment that the trout seizes it. Whether he fancies that the bait is a live minnow leaping out of the water, or whether the value of the thing is increased by the prospect in losing it, cannot of course be surely known, but it is certain that at this moment many large trout which have cautiously followed the bait all through the cast, are at last tempted to rush at it, and may then be taken if the above precaution is adopted; whilst, on the other hand, they are assuredly scared if the bait is carelessly drawn out of the water.

Trolling for the Great Lake-Trout is often practised in the Scotch lakes. For this purpose two strong and long trolling rods are required, with lines of at least eighty yards of strong twisted silk, or good hand-made hair-line. This kind of fishing must be carried on from a boat suited to the state of the lake, which, if liable to strong currents or winds, will require it to be of full size and seaworthy. This is rowed out into the lake by a couple of men, who manage it and impel it in the direction and at the rate of speed indicated by the angler, or by some experienced hand, if he is young or a stranger to the locality. Very strong swivel-traces will be required, with the double swivels, and either strong gimp or treble-gut must be used for the hook-length; but if the latter, it also must be guarded with brass wire, as these fish are very apt to bite through anything which is capable of being easily cut or divided. The parr-tail form of hooks may be used with one of the rods, and baited with a small trout or smoult; on the other may be used by way of variety, any of the ordinary forms of hooks, or the following, which, as being equally simple and efficacious, may be strongly relied on:—Two hooks of No. 3 size are tied together at a considerable angle with a third of No. 5 size, whose shank comes quite close to the point of junction of the two hooks. This form of hook is used with a large smoult or small trout, and will generally succeed, though not I think so good as Mr. Stoddart's parr-tail. The traces should be heavily leaded with rolled lead or swan-shot. In using these baits the angler is rowed out into deep water, and then drops one of his baits from the stern of the boat whilst slowly progressing under the oars, and allows the line to run out about thirty yards, when it is stopped by some kind of hitch, such as a slip-knot or any other device, and the rod is fixed over the side of the stern at an angle of thirty or forty degrees. The other rod is then set in the same way, and the boat steadily kept going at about two miles an hour. If the boat nears the shore, or rows along it in a circular direction, the line on the shore-side ought to be shorter than the other by at least ten yards. The line ought to be free, or so nearly so as to barely withstand the force of the boat moving through the water; if therefore a slip-knot is used, see that it is a very free one. A stone is sometimes employed, placed in the bottom of the boat, or a piece of cobbler's-wax on the butt-end of the rod to which the line is attached by the thumb, and from which it is easily torn by the pull of the fish. When a large trout is hooked, the boat should be rowed to the shore, and the fish landed with the landing-net or gaff. Artificial Minnows, or other fish, are used for the common trout, or lake-trout, exactly as in fishing with their originals for which they are substituted, except that the striking must be quicker, so as to prevent the trout from detecting his error, and thus leaving the bait before he is hooked. There is one other bait to which I have alluded, the description of the mode of using which must now be given; it is a very deadly bait, and will so generally take trout, that it is by many considered to be closely allied to poaching—this is the Salmon-Roe, the mode of using which is as follows:—The directions for curing the roe and making the paste have been already given, but the *ova*, or beads, must be removed from the jar before use, and placed in flannel in a warm place, and under slight pressure, so as to toughen the skin. In fishing with this bait, the refuse particles are used as ground-bait, and then the hook is strung with the beads or baited with the paste, and the trout taken as fast as this attractive food will tempt them to their fate. Mr. Stoddart recommends two hooks to be tied back to back, and then brought half round so that their bends stand

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at right angles to one another, in which state they hold the paste very well. He is of opinion that this bait is too murderous in ordinary rivers, and only suited to such localities as are frequented by trout in search of salmon-roe, when it may be desirable, for the sake of the salmon, either to get rid of the trout or to scare them away, and disgust them with this particular food. His mode of fishing with the salmon-roe is the following:—"Let the angler, provided with a stiffish single-handed rod and the tackle already described, sally forth either alone or consorted, at most, with one companion in arms. He may either betake himself to one of the accustomed beats, if not previously occupied by another party, or pitch upon some untried piece of water which, although of limited range, possesses the same qualities of depth, speed, and bottom. Near the head of this he ought to select his stand, or post, on a dry and unexposed portion of the bank. There is no necessity, on commencing operations, that he should bait the spot. This in the course of a few throws will be done quite sufficiently without occasioning, as the other practice does, the gorging and repletion of a portion of the fish further down. In throwing, the angler should generally employ a short line, not much exceeding his rod in length, and occasionally a good deal shorter. He can always in that highly discoloured state of water in which the salmon-roe is most effective as a bait, entice his sport to within a yard's distance of the margin. Accordingly he loses no advantage by employing the description of line I have recommended, and in the matter of striking acquires a very important one. Sometimes, however, in certain localities, and where bull-trout or whitlings are observed moving in his vicinity, it may be expedient to increase the length of his cast, or throw; also, in brown or fine waters it is essential to do so. In baiting with the paste, let the angler extract a small portion, equal in size to a horse-bean, from the pot or jar. He requires then to insert it between the projecting barbs of his hooks, in the angle formed by their junction. A slight pressure of the finger will assist in attaching it, but it is not necessary to conceal every portion of the hook as in worm-fishing. When casting, the angler ought to be extremely cautious, lest, by excess of force, he should occasion his bait to drop off..... In the mode of fishing recommended, the angler ought to restrict his operations to a single spot in the range or beat occupied by him, when he will effectually concentrate the feeding trout, and render available a great proportion of his casts. He should always keep his line *taut*, sounding, as it were, the bottom with the leads attached to it; and holding himself on the alert in case of any sudden stoppage by the seizure of the fish." Such is Mr. Stoddart's account of his mode of fishing with the salmon-roe; there seems to be one objection only to its use, namely, that it is too successful; but that is a ground of rejection the force of which the young angler will be little inclined to admit.

Sect. 13.—Salmon-Fishing with the Worm or Fish-Bait.

The most simple kind of tackle used in bottom-fishing for the salmon, is that employed when the worm is used. For this purpose a single hook (Nos. 1 or 2) is whipped to a length of strong single salmon-gut, which should extend at least five or six feet, and then be joined through the intervention of a swivel-hook to the casting-line. The reel-line should be about forty-five yards long, made of good plaited-line or hand-twisted hair-line; and the reel should be of full size, simple, and with the large barrel instead of the multiplier. About two feet from the hook five or six swan-shots are to be applied, or a piece of roll-lead if the stream is very strong and powerful; since the tendency in such cases always is to cast *up* all objects thrown into the water, and therefore the increased weight is required to counteract this power. Sometimes two hooks are used in worm-fishing for salmon (Nos. 1 and 4); the first is tied on below and the latter a little above its shank. The rod for this kind of fishing is the ordinary trolling-rod, with the substitution of a more elastic top for that which is required to manœuvre the bait in minnow-spinning.

The Spinning-Tackle for salmon is exactly similar to that used for the *Salmo Ferox*, or great lake-trout; the only difference being that it requires a greater weight of lead to sink it to the bottom, where the salmon always feed when in search of fish or worms.

The Mode of Baiting the single hook with the worm, is to take two or three lob-worms, or marsh-worms, and run the point of the hook through an inch of one of them near the head, then omit about an inch and a quarter, and insert the hook again through another inch; after which a second worm is to be served in the same way, and if they are not of good size a third, always finishing by leaving the point and barb within the body of the lowest worm, and about

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two inches from the point of its tail. In this way the worms lie in four or six loops on the hook, with their heads and tails free, and they are killing in proportion as they are constantly moving in their struggles to free themselves from the hook. In baiting the double hook, the lower one is entered at the head of the worm and brought out at the tail; the worm is then drawn over the point of the upper hook by bending the gut, and it is stretched up to the shank as well as partially over the gut, in which process the point appears projecting from the middle of the worm. Next, transfix another worm with the lower hook, and then impale one half of it upon the upper hook so as to conceal it, leaving the lower half of the worm free; finally, conceal the bend and barb of the lower hook with a third worm.

MINNOWS, PARR, SMOULTS, TROUT, &c., are applied to the hook exactly in the same way as in trout-fishing, remembering always that the bait should be of a larger size, in order to tempt the salmon, and that as the baits are larger so the hooks must correspond in dimensions, in order to carry them properly. ARTIFICIAL FISH-BAITS are used also for salmon similar to those for trout, but larger.

SALMON ARE CHIEFLY TAKEN with the worm or minnow from the beginning of March to the middle of June, but sometimes even in the autumn they may be tempted with the worm or fish-bait. Still water—that is to say, water comparatively still—is the best fitted for bottom-fishing; and in such situations they often take the fish-bait or worm in preference to the fly. It often happens in severe spring frosts when the water is clear, but of a cold uninviting green colour, that the salmon will take the parr-tail freely, and yet refuse the fly *in toto*. But all further rules on this subject are useless, as so much depends upon the variations of the season, that what will suit in one year will fail in an exactly similar condition of water in the following season. The safe plan, when the salmon are shy, is either to try all baits in succession until the killing one is pitched upon, or to watch others doing the same thing, and then to profit by their experience. If, however, the angler is himself trying the various experiments necessary to the final selection, he ought to have a thorough knowledge of the locality, and be able to judge *at a glance*, from the condition of the river, what humour the salmon are likely to be in. It must be known that a pertinacious use of an unseasonable bait not only destroys all chance of sport with other bait on that day, but disgusts the fish with that particular kind of lure for many days, or even weeks to come. Hence this practice is a dangerous weapon in the hands of the tyro, and, though very successful with the experienced hand, is capable of doing great mischief if abused. This is more especially the case with the worm, which requires the water to be exactly in one particular state for its successful employment; and if used at any other time will disgust the fish for a long period. Hence, it is essential to its use that the water shall be just low and clear enough to allow the bait to be seen, and yet that the stream shall be sufficient to carry the worm down at a certain distance from the bed. The fly may be used to any extent, and will not interfere with bottom-fishing; but if the worm has been often exhibited to the salmon, it is useless to repeat the offer for some time to come.

THE MODE OF FISHING for the salmon with the worm is the following:—Let out about twenty feet of line, and attach the worm in one or other of the modes described in page 295. Then let the fisher take his stand on the bank, and draw out a yard and a half of the line from the reel, letting it hang loosely from the butt-end of the rod, so as to offer no impediment to the salmon when he seizes the bait. He then casts his worm well across the water, directing it slightly downwards; the current immediately seizes hold of it, and sweeps it onwards with a tendency towards his own side, and in this sweep the salmon takes it, if so inclined. When it reaches the side of the river on which the angler stands, he must lift it gradually from the water, but without jerking it, and repeat his cast, slightly varying the direction. If during this procedure the fisher experiences any pull, whether decidedly from a fish or from any other cause, he should give out line until he finds some very decided pull upon it, such as to leave no doubt upon his mind that the salmon has bolted the bait, when a very slight elevation of the wrist will strike the hook or hooks into the throat of the salmon, and the angler has only to proceed according to the size of the fish in order to effect his capture. Of course with the strong tackle used in worm-fishing less danger is incurred of losing him than with the fly; but still with large and vigorous fish some care is necessary, and the butt-end of the rod must be advanced pretty constantly, and for some little time, before the gaff or landing-net can be safely called into requisition. IN USING THE SPINNING-

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TACKLE with the parr-tail or troutling as a bait, it is spun exactly as for trout; but as the leads are heavier there is more danger of its fouling the bottom; and if so, the angler must proceed as the coachman does with his whip when it is fast in a buckle or trace—that is to say, he must by a rapid throw of the rod suddenly slacken his line and thrust the bait away from him. This often succeeds; but if it fails, recourse must be had to a long-forked stick, or the clearing-ring, or drag-hook (see page 280), by which a great part, if not all of the line may be saved; and as the loss of a part is better than the whole, so the loss of the hook will be borne better than that of the whole of the tackle.

SECT. 14.—GRAYLING BOTTOM-FISHING.

THE TACKLE FOR GRAYLING must be of the finest description; and most grayling-fishers prefer a single-hair casting line on that account. This or a single-gut length of six or seven feet, with a swan-quill float and a fine hook of No. 6, 7, or 8, will complete the equipment for this species of sport—that is to say, in conjunction with a rod of sixteen or seventeen feet in length, and a reel and reel-line of such dimensions as to afford about twenty-five or thirty yards of available line. Three or four No. 2 shot will generally be wanted, or if gentles are used, No. 4 or 5 will be heavy enough.

THE BEST BAITS for graylings are the gentle (well scoured), the caddis-worm, and the brandling, or the red-worm. The various grubs are also employed with success in grayling-fishing; indeed all the small larvæ will take this fish, but none are better than the gentle and the caddis-worm. GROUND-BAITING should always be practised, but not too profusely, as this fish is more easily satiated than some others in which ground-baiting is employed; and it is also less discriminating, so that it will take unscoured ground-bait as readily as the well-scoured bait on the hook. Still without the temptation afforded by a few unbaited gentles, it will be less likely to take the armed ones with avidity, and will consequently refuse to be charmed out of its gravelly bed. The minnow is not often taken by the grayling, but occasionally it has been used with success; still, the grayling-fisher will waste his time by endeavouring to capture this fish with any bottom-lure but those which I have specified above.

GRAYLING ARE IN SEASON in the autumn, coming in just as the trout go out. They spawn in April and May, and come round so as to be edible by the end of July; but they are not in high season till the 1st of September. They are found in clear gravelly streams, as well as those which are loaded with mud, such as the Wye in the lower part of its course; but in the latter kind of river they are not so fine and beautifully coloured as in the pellucid and gravelly bed of the Teme, and the upper course of the Severn, as well as in the Wye above Hereford. Unlike the trout, they are not spread over the three kingdoms, but are confined to about twelve or eighteen rivers, including, chiefly, the Wye, Usk, Lug, Teme, Severn, Dove, Trent, and Humber. From this circumstance, they have been supposed to have been introduced into this country by the monks, and the theory is very probably correct, though wholly incapable of proof.

THE GRAYLING is taken either by simple float-angling (the angler striking pretty quickly, but gently) or by dipping (see page 298) or sinking and drawing. The depth at which the bait is to lie varies much, but in general, during the first part of the season, these fish feed near the surface, and later on nearer the bottom. All sorts of natural flies and grasshoppers may be used successfully as dippers, and the artificial fly also; but as this will be hereafter treated of under the head of Fly-fishing, it will be unnecessary to allude more fully to this mode in the present chapter. Grayling play pretty freely at first, but do not fight nearly so strongly as the trout of the same size; hence, even with the single hair, they may generally be landed in twenty minutes, or even less; and the instances in which tackle is broken by this fish, in the hands of a skilful angler, are rare indeed.

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CHAPTER IV.

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL FLY-FISHING.

SECT. 1.—THE FISH WHICH WILL TAKE THE FLY.

In the chapter on Bottom-fishing I have remarked, that all fish may be taken by that mode; but now it must be explained that the circle from which the victims of the fly-fishers' art are to be selected is much more limited. He may, however, flatter himself that all, or nearly so, of the most prized varieties are included in his list, and this is the case not only in the British islands but in almost all countries. In India fly-fishing is practised to a great extent, and indeed wherever the *salmonidæ* are found it may be freely indulged in. The following list includes all those fish which will take the fly so freely as to be worth the angler's notice; and I shall describe the particular mode of fishing for them in the order of their value, not only as edible fish, but as affording sport to the angler, beginning with the little playful bleak, and ending with the lordly salmon. They are—first, bleak; secondly, dace; thirdly, roach; fourthly, chub; fifthly, grayling; sixthly, trout in all its varieties; seventhly, salmon.

SECT. 2.—VARIETIES OF FLY-FISHING.

NATURAL FLY-FISHING consists in the use of the various living flies, grasshoppers, &c., which are found on the banks of rivers and lakes. It is practised by a process which is called DIPPING, but chiefly in such situations as are so much overhung with bushes as to preclude the use of the artificial fly. In these spots the water is generally still, and there is no possibility of offering the lure in any other position than a state of almost entire quiescence. Hence all imitations are easily discoverable; and the real fly and grasshopper, &c., are the only surface-baits which the fish will take.

ARTIFICIAL FLY-FISHING, on the other hand, consists in the use of imitations of these flies, and also of other fancy flies, by means of an elastic rod and fine tackle, and by a process which is called whipping. All fish which will take the one will take the other kind of lure, but not always with an equal degree of avidity, as we shall hereafter find; but as the principle is the same in both cases, they are better treated of together, rather than to go over the same ground a second time.

SECT. 3.—THE APPARATUS REQUIRED IN DIPPING AND WHIPPING.

THE TACKLE FOR DIPPING is much more simple than that employed in whipping, and it consists of a moderately short and stiff rod (the spinning or trolling-rod, *minus* its butt-joint, answers this purpose well)—of a short but strong reel-line of hand-twisted hair—of a single length, or two at most, of gut—and of a fine hook suited in size to the bait and fish. In dipping, it is usual to lengthen or shorten the line, which is used from a foot in length to two or three yards, by coiling it round the end of the top joint, and uncoiling it as the line is wished to be extended, and after the rod has been insinuated through the trees or bushes growing on the banks. Some anglers use a reel fixed upon the lower part of the second joint, and with a hair-line it acts pretty well; but with a plaited one it is difficult to protrude the line from the end of the rod without so great a degree of disturbance as to alarm the fish. The uncoiling from the end of the rod is not unattended with this disadvantage; but it is less objectionable than doing so entirely from the reel, though I think, for the sake of convenience, that appendage may be added, taking care to have the lowest joint free, so as to be able to shorten the rod by that amount at pleasure.

FOR WHIPPING, OR FLY-FISHING as it is generally called—that is, for the use of the artificial fly—a rod, either single or two-handed, according to circumstances, is required, with a fine reel-line and large barrelled-reel; and also a long casting-line, with one, two, or three droppers, each armed with a fly.

THE FLY-ROD is either a single-handed one, or, when used for the larger varieties of the trout or for salmon, the two-handed rod. Both of these rods are usually made of the same materials, and they differ only in size, the single-handed varying from eleven to thirteen feet in length, while the two-handed extends from fourteen to twenty feet. They are both usually made in four or five lengths, but in Scotland they are, I believe, seldom in more than three pieces. The butt-end is generally an ash-sapling, sometimes solid, and at others hollowed out to receive the small joints. The middle

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joints are almost always made of hickory, and the top joint either of lancewood alone, or of that wood spliced with the bamboo and strengthened with silk. Many of the best and lightest fly-rods are now made, except the butt-end, of rent and glued bamboo; and none are more beautiful and efficient than these if properly used; but they are very fragile in careless hands, and therefore scarcely fitted for the young angler. Mr. Blacker's rods are of the most beautiful construction, and may be obtained at a price varying from two guineas upwards. They are far superior to any of home manufacture, or to those obtained at inferior and cheaper shops. Nothing in the whole range of the manufacture of fishing-tackle requires greater skill than the putting together of a good fly-rod; for it must possess great pliancy and strength, and yet it must balance exactly in the hand, and *yield equally in every part.* This last quality is essential to the due management of the fly, for without it it is impossible, except by long use of the same rod, to do full justice to the art which is under consideration. These various materials are generally brought up in colour to that of the red hickory, by means of the application of a mineral acid, aided sometimes by logwood if the colour is desired to be very dark. Finally the whole rod is varnished, and this process should be repeated at the end of each season before the rod is put by. The portions of the rod are united together in the same way as the bottom-fishing rod, by means of brass ferules; but, in addition, a small pin, or a flat hook of doubled and bent wire, is usually fixed close to the socket and head of each piece, and after the latter is passed into the former these pins are united by a few turns of waxed silk, in the form of a figure of 8, so as to prevent the force exerted in throwing the fly from separating the rod into two or more portions. On finishing the day's fishing these may be cut away or retained at the discretion of the fisher, who will sometimes prefer keeping his rod together from day to day, to the trouble of repeating this operation on each visit to the river. About from ten to fourteen good-sized rings should be fixed on that side of the rod on which the reel is used, whichever that may be; and they may be applied by means of a piece of quill and a few turns of waxed silk above and below the ring. At the butt-end a SPIKE, which is capable of being withdrawn like a toothpick into its case, is exceedingly useful; and as its weight serves to balance the outward length of the rod, it is rather advantageous than otherwise. It is moreover so useful in fixing the rod while recovering the fly when entangled, that I should strongly advise the young angler to adopt it, or to have with him a screw-spike capable of being attached whenever that unpleasant occurrence takes place. THE REEL is either simple, with a large drum or central barrel, or otherwise. The multiplier is made with a series of wheels, which are intended to give out and take in the line more rapidly than the simple machine. In this desirable point I am satisfied that the object is attained much more completely by the simple large drum; for though the multiplier is very pretty in theory, yet in practice it is constantly failing in its powers when tested by a strong fish. Besides this, the large drum actually gives out line much faster than the multiplier, and has therefore that point in its favour; while in taking it in, he must be a bungler indeed who cannot wind the winch or handle rapidly enough to do all which he wishes to effect; and it is quite certain, that what is done is better and more smoothly done in this way than by the aid of wheels and cogs, which are liable to jerks and interruptions. Upon this reel is wound from thirty to eighty yards of line, varying with the rod and the fish for which it is to be used; thus, the smaller fish, including the ordinary run of common trout and the grayling, will require only thirty or thirty-five yards, while the larger varieties of trout and the salmon should always have from sixty to eighty yards ready for their capture. The HAIR-LINE, as made by the hand, I have already described at page 265, and I believe this, if well made by a careful yet handy man, will be superior to those usually sold in the shops, and made by the machine. It should be regularly tapered, and should vary in strength from twenty-four hairs down to fourteen for salmon, and from eighteen down to ten or twelve for trout. The tapering portion, however, should only extend, in the trout-line, as far as it is clear of the reel, which may be estimated at about half the length of the line; and in the salmon line only for about twenty yards from the end. Plaited silk lines are now much used, especially for salmon, but I confess I have never seen any line which could be thrown with as much certainty as the hand-made horse-hair line. It has just sufficient stiffness to carry itself smoothly through the air, with pliancy enough to adapt itself to all the varying evolutions of the angler's wrists and arms. Nevertheless, I am aware that many good anglers give

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the preference to the plaited line, and it is no doubt very superior to the old machine-twisted article, which was constantly "kinking," and from that circumstance liable to break. THE CASTING-LINE is composed of two, and sometimes of three portions; the first, or extreme portion, consisting, in all cases, of several lengths of single-gut carefully knotted together, with or without silk "lapping;" the next portion is usually of treble-gut, twisted by the machine, or by the quills and bobbins which I have described at page 265. To these some anglers add a third portion of twisted hair, which however is unnecessary if the reel-line is properly tapered, and is of hair also. The great principle to be carried out is to taper the line from the point of the rod to the end, so that in working it through the air it shall play smoothly, and obey the hand to the greatest nicety. In this respect it should imitate the four-in-hand whip, which is so graduated that it tapers all the way, and is hence capable of taking a fly off the leader's ear. The gut varies in strength and size, from that required for the salmon to the finer sizes used in grayling or small trout-fishing. The single gut portion is generally about two yards long, and terminates in a fly which is called the stretcher, and which is either dressed on a length of gut, or has a fine loop left at its head by which it may be attached to any fresh length of gut. About three or four feet from this stretcher another fly, called a dropper, is attached by means of a short length of gut, usually about three or four inches long; and at the junction of the single gut with the twisted portion there is another dropper, with a somewhat longer length of gut. If more than two droppers are used, the single gut length is increased to eight feet, and the third dropper is then introduced midway between the two already described, with a length of gut of about six inches, while that of the highest is increased to eight; by which gradual increase of length the stretcher and the droppers all ought to touch the water at the same time, while the foot-length of the casting-line extends in a gentle sweep from the stretcher to the point of the rod. The mode of attaching these droppers to the casting-line is by opening the water-knots, and then introducing the dropper-gut between their two portions, after having previously knotted its end. This should be done as neatly as possible, to avoid making an unsightly projection. Most anglers whip the ends of the water-knots with white silk waxed with white wax, and also take a few turns round the dropper-gut to make all secure. The ARTIFICIAL FLIES have been already fully described in the second chapter.

SECT. 4.—BLEAK-FISHING, AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR THROWING THE FLY.

WHIPPING FOR BLEAK forms the best introduction to the use of the fly-rod, especially as these little fish may be met with on almost all our canals and rivers, and often in situations where there are no trees to interfere with the use of the line. Almost any small midge or gnat will take the bleak, and the tackle throughout should be of the finest description, with a light single-handed rod of about 11 or 12 feet in length. The young angler should now take as much pains in throwing his fly as if he were intent upon the capture of the finest salmon. In watching the evolutions of the general run of fishermen, it is common enough to see two or three feet of line touching the water before the fly, whereas the contrary ought to be the case, and the fly should alight on the water as airily and gently as its natural prototype, with scarcely any portion of the line following its example by coming into contact with the water at all. If the angler will only endeavour to avoid jerking his line, and will coax his fly rather than force it forwards, he will soon see the difference. The cast or throw is effected as follows, when the rod is light and there is plenty of elbow room. I am now supposing that the angler has a rod of 11 feet in length, and a line, altogether, of about eighteen, with either a single stretcher, or in addition one or two droppers, all very minute; he takes the casting-line in his left hand, at such a distance from the fly that it is quite clear of the ground, and with the rod pointing forward and to the left; then at the moment when he looses the line, he, with a half side and half backward movement of the arm, sweeps the line in a gentle curve till it is well behind and above him. It is at this point that the first mistake is likely to occur, as here the awkward hand generally jerks his fly (which is sometimes even whipped off with a snap), and after this jerk he can never regain that even and smooth flow which would otherwise follow its alteration from the backward to the forward direction. When this movement is elegantly and effectively carried out, the line, without any abrupt change, is brought round the head from the backward to the forward movement without passing directly overhead, but in a line considerably above the level of the head of the angler; when it has passed before the body, it is thrown for-

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wards *at the full length of the arm*, and, without the slightest hurry, to the point which it is intended the fly shall alight upon. If this is badly executed, and with any jerk, the line is doubled upon itself, and the loop thus made touches the water whilst the fly is two or three feet from its destination, and finally descends with a whole series of convolutions of gut or hair, enough to alarm all the fish within sight. This is called throwing from the left shoulder, from which mode throwing from the right shoulder, or back-casting, differs in bringing the rod and arm (after they have achieved the backward movement) forwards again by the side of the head, delivering the fly over the right shoulder without making the complete circular sweep behind the body. Sometimes when it is desirable to throw the fly with great delicacy, it is dried by waving the line from right to left over the head, in the form of a figure of 8; but this can only be effectively done with a single fly, as the droppers interfere with the manœuvre too much to allow of its being tried when they are used. The young angler should practise both methods, and should never consider that he has mastered the first great difficulty until he has acquired the power of dropping his fly upon the water tolerably near a given spot by both the above methods, and without its being preceded by any portion of the line, or followed by more than a few inches of it. As soon as he has thus dropped his fly he begins to draw it more or less directly to him, and with a series of jerks, varying a good deal according to the fly and the fish to be taken. In whipping for bleak, very little more need be done than to bring the fly gently and steadily towards the bank, and then repeat the cast in a fresh direction. When hooked, they may be landed at once, even with a single hair-line. DIPPING may be practised with the bleak, using the natural house-fly, or in fact any small fly; but it requires very little art, and I shall therefore postpone the description of this species of fishing until the section treating of Chub-fishing.

SECT. 5.—ROACH AND DACE.

DACE may be taken with the artificial fly, and afford even better practice than the bleak, since they will take a coarser fly, and the tackle may be somewhat larger in proportion. The line, therefore, having more substance is more easily handled, and the fly may be manœuvered to a much greater nicety. Black and red palmers, or gnats, will generally take dace; and two droppers may be added in almost all cases to the stretcher, the angler varying the fly upon each.

ROACH may also be taken with the same flies and tackle, but they do not rise to the fly nearly so well as the dace and bleak.

DIPPING may also be used with both of these fish, but they will in general take the artificial fly quite as readily, even in still water.

SECT. 6.—MODE OF TAKING CHUB WITH THE ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL FLY.

THESE FISH generally lie under the shade of willows or other trees, and very often are difficult to get at with the artificial fly, which, moreover, they do not at any time take so readily as the natural one. Sometimes, however, good chub may be taken in the middle of the day, while basking on the surface of the water, by means of fine tackle and an artificial humble-bee, or a small red hackle, or an ant-fly, on a No. 6 or 7 hook; but their best time is in the mornings and evenings. When they do take the fly on this fine tackle, they require great care at first, as they fight very hard for a short time; and are, on that account, excellent practice for the embryo salmon-fisher.

IN DIPPING FOR CHUB, which is the best and most certain mode of bringing them to the basket, the following flies, &c., will be found most useful:—First, the blue-bottle fly (two of which may be put on one hook) is a most killing bait for chub; secondly, hairy caterpillars; thirdly, beetles of all kinds, including cockchafers; fourthly, grasshoppers and humble-bees also are among these most destructive lures; and lastly, the May-fly is a certain killer. All these various natural baits must be used very cautiously, and the angler should make as little noise as possible, and should hide himself behind as large a tree as he can find. The beetle, or other bait, having been applied on the hook so that the barb lies under the division between the wing-cases, the quantity of line necessary, which seldom exceeds two yards, is coiled around the end of the rod, so as to be capable in this state of being protruded quietly through an opening in the overhanging branches of the trees, whose shade the chub chiefly affects. When the trolling-rod, thus armed, has insinuated itself, and is clear of all obstruction, it may be very gently turned round so as to lengthen the line by unrolling it, and the bait in the most imperceptible manner is suffered to reach the water. If there are water-lilies or other flat leaves floating on the water, a good plan is to drop the beetle on one of them, and then gently

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draw it off the side into the water, when, if there is a chub near, he generally seizes upon it. But in all cases avoid a splash, and let the armed hook reach the water so gently as to cause scarcely a ripple. When there it may be very gently jerked in all directions, a few inches at a time; avoiding all contact of the line with the water, and imitating the movements on the water of the insects which frequent it. In this way good fish may generally be tempted to their fate, and when hooked, may be played and landed in the same way as with the artificial fly; but as the rod is not so suited to this purpose, owing to its stiffness, and as the line is shorter, the chub must be mastered and landed with the net as soon as possible.

Sect. 7.—Grayling-Fishing.

With the Artificial Fly the grayling affords good sport; and as this fish is in season at a time when salmon and trout are going or gone out, it is highly prized on that account, if not owing to its intrinsic sport-giving powers.

The Flies for Grayling are similar to those for trout, and especially to those used in the autumn. Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5, of the trouting-flies, at page 277, may be used early in the season; and later on, Nos. 7, 8, and 9. Sometimes the May-fly will take these fish, but not very commonly, except at a time when they are not considered so fit for the table as in the later months of the year. The winged larva, No. 16 in the preceding list, will also take the grayling; and it may be used with advantage on a stretcher with droppers of Nos. 7 and 8. The trout casting-line should be used with a rod of about eleven or twelve feet in length, and a reel and reel-line of thirty yards will suffice, as the grayling very rarely exceeds two pounds in weight, and the average in most rivers is not much above one pound.

In Fishing for grayling with the artificial fly, there is not much occasion for concealment, as this fish is very bold and fearless of the presence of man. When hooked there is little necessity for striking, as the hold on the mouth is not in any case good, and the attempt to improve it by striking often ends in breaking the hook away from its hold. At first plenty of liberty should be given, short however of a slack line; but in a very few minutes the attempt may be made to wind-up, and this will seldom be resisted. Grayling do not fight very severely, and are not nearly so violent as the chub; they sometimes, however, are strong enough to break away, because their mouths are so tender and the hooks used so small, on account of the limited size of their jaws, as compared with the trout. But the line is seldom in danger, and if the hook is only securely fixed, the landing of its victim is safe enough.

Dipping for Grayling may be practised as for chub, but with flies only, avoiding beetles and grasshoppers. It is not, however, a plan often adopted, since the grayling will generally take either the artificial fly or some kind of bottom-bait better than any natural fly, by the dipping process.

Sect. 8.—Trout-Fishing.

The Tackle required for this most beautiful and exciting sport is described in the third section of this chapter, page 298.

The Mode of Using it has also been to a certain extent explained in the next section, at page 300. Some few peculiarities, however, must be alluded to in the following account of fly-fishing for trout, which differs in many respects from all other kinds of sport practised on the waters of this country with the rod and line. Unlike the mere whipping for bleak, which I have dilated upon as forming an excellent introduction to trout-fishing, the latter requires great caution not to scare the fish, either by the too near presence of the angler, or by the awkward manipulation of his line and flies. The management of the two-handed rod will more properly come under salmon and lake-trout fishing, for although it is sometimes employed in fishing for common trout in large and wide rivers, yet it can scarcely even then be needed, and it certainly loses in delicacy of manipulation much more than it gains in its power of controlling a larger extent of water. Different men adopt various plans of throwing the fly, but it is of little consequence which mode of many is followed, so that the angler has only entire command of his rod and line, *and can do what he likes with his flies*. When this perfection of casting is arrived at, the angler may choose whether he will fish up-stream or down, but he will soon find out by experience that the wind in his back is advantageous to him, and that he will scarcely succeed in any case in casting his fly in the face of a strong breeze. Beyond this no rule will in all cases apply, and the fly-fisher must use his own discretion, founded in great measure upon practical observation, as to the precise mode in which he will reach and fish particular parts of the water that he believes to be the resort of good trout. Indeed it is use-

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less to attempt instructing the tyro by theoretical lessons in the details of an art in which it is certain that nothing but practice can give any degree of proficiency. This is constantly shown even in the professed fly-fisher of two or three seasons' experience, who throws his fly with all the most approved motions, and is beforehand fully convinced that he is the equal of any angler, from John o' Groat's to the Landsend; but, when he sees fish after fish hooked and landed by some older hand following in his wake, and using the very same fly, with perhaps an inferior rod, he is obliged to confess that theory must succumb to delicacy of handling, and that fly-fishing is a practical art, rather than a science attainable in the closet. The various degrees of success mark the difference between the master and the scholar, and show that a life-time may be spent in acquiring the power of deceiving this wary fish, and yet there may be room for improvement; hence it is that so many men of talent have been devotees to the fly-rod, and while they have enjoyed the beauties of nature displayed to them during the prosecution of their sport, they have nevertheless been much more deeply engaged in acquiring the art of fascinating a fish seldom of more than twenty ounces in weight. No one of these men would care for taking trout in any way unaccompanied by difficulty, and attainable without dexterity; but when it is found that by long practice and careful observation a feat can be accomplished which no other means will give, then the man who has mastered the power congratulates himself upon its possession, and is not unnaturally pleased in being enabled to display it by showing what may be done after another's failure. Rivalry is the great zest in sport of all kinds, and the trout taken by an artist, in water which has been well flogged by his inferiors, are thought much more of than those landed where they rise to any bungler's throw. But to proceed to such a general description as may be of some little use to the tyro, I must first observe, that he should confine himself to a single-handed rod with a moderately long line—say, of from fifteen to eighteen feet, which he should at once draw off the reel, and of which he should hold the gut in his hand near the fly. With this he may proceed to fish the river which is the seat of his intended sport, and may walk quietly along its bank, throwing successively over every yard of likely water; but always fishing first the water nearest to him, and lengthening or shortening his line according to circumstances, such as the breadth of water, the freedom from trees, &c. He will find that he must not throw straight across the river, neither must he allow the fly or flies to be drawn too near his own bank, or he will not be able to lift them cleverly from the water, so as to get such a clear sweep as will enable him to recast them with precision and delicacy. Hence, instead of fishing the water under his feet, he will throw his flies so as to take the edge next his own bank at the length of his line; and will thus successively throw over all on his side long before his person is seen; and when he brings his flies up to within ten or twelve feet of where he is standing, he may lift them, because he has already well tried that portion of the water. But besides the excellence in throwing the fly, there is also a great art in STRIKING AND HOOKING the fish exactly at the right time, and with the proper degree of force. When the trout rises at the fly, which may always be seen by the angler, the rod should be raised with a motion upwards of the wrist only, avoiding, as far as the excitement of the moment will permit, all shoulder or elbow-work, and using just such a degree of wrist-action as may be judged will fasten so sharp an implement as the hook in so soft a substance as the mouth of the trout. Theoretically this may easily be estimated, but practically it will be found that the tyro generally jerks hard enough to strike a blunt hook deep into the jaws of a shark or dolphin. The object of striking at all is to prevent the fish from having time to discover his mistake, the natural consequence of which would be to "blow-out" the fly from his mouth. The fly-fisher, therefore, waits till the moment when the fly is actually within the lips of his victim, and then, with a gentle yet rapid wrist-action, he fixes the hook there. This is much more easily done with a light single-handed rod than with one used by both hands, and hence it is advisable for this reason, as well as on account of the greater facilities in casting with it, to limit the young trout-fisher to its use. IN PLAYING trout when hooked, much depends upon their size; if small, they may be landed immediately; but if above half or three-quarters of a pound, according to the fineness of the tackle, and the gameness of the fish of that locality, it is necessary to yield to his powers for a time, and to give him line for running; always taking care not to give him so much liberty as to enable him to reach adjacent weeds, or to rub his nose

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against the ground, and thus, in either way, get rid of his hook. When tolerably exhausted, by advancing the butt of the rod and so using its flexibility as a safety-spring, the reel may be gradually wound up until the fish is brought near enough to be dropped quietly into the landing-net, after which it may be considered secure. But whoever has charge of the net must keep well out of sight of the hooked fish until he is effectually exhausted, or he will be sure to make fresh struggles, and often to such an extent as to cause his loss. The fly may easily be cut out of the lip with the penknife, and is generally none the worse for the service it has performed.

GOOD TROUT are found in almost all the gravelly and quick-running rivers of Great Britain and Ireland, but they vary much in size and gameness, without which latter quality they are little valued by the fly-fisher. In Scotland they are highly prized, since they afford excellent sport, and are also of good size and flavour.

SEA AND LAKE TROUT, when they take the fly, are to be managed in the same way as salmon, whose size and strength they approach much more nearly than those of the common trout.

SECT. 9.—SALMON-FISHING.

FOR THE SALMON, tackle must be employed of a description much stronger than that used for trout; in principle, however, it is nearly similar; and a salmon-rod with its line may be compared, in all respects, to a trout-rod magnified with a slight power of the microscope.

THE SALMON-ROD should be from fourteen to twenty feet in length, and should be made of three or four lengths, at the discretion of the fisher. The butt is always of ash, the middle piece or pieces of hickory, perfectly free from flaw, and the top-piece of the best bamboo, either rent and glued up or spliced in lengths, which of course only extend from joint to joint; this is better than lance-wood, which is apt to make the rod top-heavy. Anglers of note differ as to the nature of the joints, which are sometimes made to screw together; at others, with the bare wood of one joint dropping into the brazen ferule terminating its next neighbour; and at others again, by having both ends brazed, so as to oppose brass to brass. In both the latter cases the double-pin, or bent-wire, and silk-fastening, as described at page 299, are used, in order to prevent their becoming loose or unattached, in the ardour of fishing. The rod should balance pretty evenly at the part where the upper hand grasps it above the reel, which is usually fixed at eighteen or twenty inches from the butt-end. These essential characteristics, coupled with those already given at page 299, will suffice for the description of the salmon-rod. The REEL-LINE has also been there described, and is of eighty to a hundred yards in length, with the last twenty only tapered down to little more than half its regular size. To this is appended a casting-line, made on the same plan as the trout-line, but one-third longer in all its parts, and entirely of gut, which should be of the size called salmon-gut. The FLIES for salmon are described at page 280. When a dropper is used, it is generally appended at about four feet from the end.

THESE IMPLEMENTS ARE USED on a scale very different to trout-fishing, and, generally speaking, with less delicacy in proportion to the increase of sweep, and the coarseness of the tackle; but in salmon-fishing so much depends upon the extent of water covered in throwing the fly, that no pains should be spared to acquire this power as fully as possible. It must be remembered that in salmon fishing, unlike trout-fishing, the river is often too broad for any line to reach nearly over all the good casts, and success is here often obtained solely by the power which some men have of sending their fly into parts which their weaker or less expert rivals cannot possibly cover. With the young angler, the first thing to be done is to secure the assistance of some resident guide well acquainted with the haunts of the fish, who will give him confidence, if he does nothing else. Without his aid the angler if unsuccessful, will wander from point to point, and will be unable to do justice to himself, because he has no confidence that there are fish where he is trying for them. Indeed, even the experienced salmon-fisher is all the better for this assistance, if he is on strange water, as though he may give a shrewd general guess as to the most probable casts for fish, he will often pass over good ones, and select those which are much inferior to his rejected localities. He will also get some information as to the probability of his flies suiting the particular river and time, and generally as to the fitness of his arrangements for that precise spot. This knowledge, once obtained, will serve as long as the river continues in the same state; but if rain, or the reverse, should alter the condition of the water, making it either much lower or much higher than before, the tyro will require

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additional aid from his *quondam* friend. This is known to all salmon-fishers, inasmuch as these fish frequent very different parts of the same river in low, and, again, in a high state of the water; and the flies will also require considerable modification, according to these changing elements. There are, however, some general rules which may be of service, though they by no means apply in all cases. Thus, large rivers usually require larger flies than small streams, which latter will more often be successfully fished with a gaudy but comparatively small fly—that is, if the water is not too clear. The fish, generally lying at the bottom, will scarcely be attracted from the depth of a large river by a small fly, whilst, if it is too gaudy, they are scared by its colours when they rise near the surface. Again, in small streams salmon seldom take any fly, except when the water is rather discoloured, and in that state a dusky or dull one is not sufficiently attractive; and when the same condition of water exists in the large rivers a gaudy colour will also be preferred. The size of the fly is of course an index to that of the hook, which is its foundation. Beyond these imperfect hints little aid can be given to the tyro, and he must learn by experience in his own person, or from that of others, the peculiar rules applicable to each locality.

The Casting is generally from the left shoulder, backwards; after which the line is steadily and rather slowly brought over the right shoulder, with the rod held in both hands, and its point directed upwards and backwards. It is then brought forwards with an increase in speed and force, when, still accelerating the speed, the angler delivers his fly at the spot upon which he wishes it to alight. This throwing from the left shoulder is chiefly useful where there are low bushes or other impediments near the ground behind the angler, under which circumstances the fly must be kept aloft; but sometimes the reverse is the case, and with impending trees and a bare background, the right shoulder or back-casting will avail much better than the rival mode above alluded to; but it is not so manageable with the two-handed rod as with the light single-handed trout-rod, which may be used with as much certainty and facility as the four-in-hand whip. Mr. Stoddart lays it down as a rule that no man can manage properly without the aid of the wind, a line more than four times the length of his rod, measuring from the fly to its point, and not including that part within the rings. This is certainly much within what is generally considered the extreme length of the salmon-line, and many professed fishers maintain that they can throw nearly twice as far as that length will command. But there is a vast difference between simply throwing a fly and throwing it cleverly and effectually; still I cannot help thinking that Mr. Stoddart has a little understated the power of the salmon-rod and line in good hands, when he limits the range to thirty-five yards from the spot where the angler stands. This I should say is about the average length of good fly-fishers, but I should think that some few tall and muscular men, who are also adepts, can command nearly ten yards more, when the air is perfectly still and the situation is favourable to the display of their power and skill. Much must depend upon the tackle, which should be very nicely graduated, and if the cast is intended to be very extensive, one fly only should be used; indeed, in salmon-fishing it is seldom that much good is derived from a dropper in addition to the stretcher. When the fly is to be thrown in a wide river of rather sluggish current, it may be directed nearly straight across, especially if the opposite bank can be reached, and the fly, after it has touched the water, may be brought back with a circular sweep, keeping the rod low until it is absolutely necessary to raise it in order to bring home the fly, and working it by gentle fits and starts, so as to imitate the movements of a living insect. When, however, there is a considerable stream, the fly may be thrown obliquely downwards, as in trout-fishing, and is then brought back against the stream, and often without that attempt at jerking, which must be made in comparatively still water. In all cases the salmon-fisher should keep as much as possible out of sight; and when he has recourse to wading, he should only enter the water which he has already effectually tried; and when there, he should make as little disturbance in it as he can possibly avoid. In this respect, however, salmon are duller and less wary than common trout, or even than sea-trout; but still they are easily scared, and no one should incautiously run risks which are not absolutely required. The fly is worked very differently to the trout-fly, which must always be on the top of the water to be effectual; whereas the salmon-fly should always be sufficiently under the water to avoid making any ripple as it is drawn towards the thrower, and yet not so deep as to be wholly out of sight. The young angler should not, however, follow his lure too closely with his eye, or

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he will be apt to strike when the fish rises at it; whereas, he should always depend upon the sense of touch before he raises his rod, which is the only motion to be adopted. Sharp striking as in trout-fishing, is wholly reprehensible; and all that is required is the instinctive stand which it is impossible to avoid making, against the fish as he seizes the fly to run away with it. Sometimes, however, it is found difficult, or even impossible, to tempt the salmon into actually seizing the fly; they will rise at it again and again, but from some cause or other refuse to take it into their jaws. In this case it must be changed until one is found to suit their fancy, but the change need not be made until the same fly has been tried two or three times unsuccessfully. Patience and perseverance, with skill and science, will here be required, and will always be served in the long-run.

In Playing the salmon, greater art is required than in the corresponding department of trout-fishing; and, in consequence, nearly one-third of all the fish hooked escape before they are landed. This arises generally from imperfect hooking, but often also from defect in the tackle, which has escaped the notice of the angler. Besides these causes of danger, there are others depending upon the direction taken by the fish, which cannot always be followed by the angler; either from the depth of the water in large rivers, or from mechanical causes in the shape of rocks, woods, &c., where the stream is smaller. When hooked, the first thing to be done is to raise the point of the rod, commonly called "giving the fish the butt," which motion must be carried out with as much power as the fisher considers his tackle will bear; always remembering to give way by releasing the line when the strain is too great for it to bear, and when the fish is resolutely bent upon running. But this exact calculation as to restraining or giving way is sometimes very difficult, especially as the size of the fish is no certain index to his power; nor can the size always be correctly estimated at the first commencement of the struggle, especially by the tyro at this kind of sport. A lively and fresh run fish will appear twice as big as he really is, whilst a large but dull one will sometimes deceive his pursuer into the belief that he is weak and powerless, and then in a fit of desperation he will show his real size and capabilities by breaking away with a long line towing astern. Mr. Stoddart's directions for playing the salmon are so good, that I am tempted to quote them in his own words:—"Always in running a fish, keep well up to, or, if possible, at right angles with its head. In the event of its taking across the current, instead of stemming or descending it, give the butt without reserve. In the case of a plunge or somerset, slacken line as quickly as possible, but lose no time in recovering it when the danger is over. When fish are plentiful and in the humour to take the fly, it is better to risk the loss of an indifferent-sized individual which you happen to have hooked, than to allow a long range of unfinished water to become disturbed through its capricious movements. In this case stint the line and hold on obdurately, but not beyond the presumed strength of your tackle. During the grilse season there are many portions of water, on the Tweed especially, where it would be absolute folly in the angler were he to humour the fish to its heart's content. A lively nervous grilse may occasion more alarm among its kind than one is aware of, especially if the water be of the transparent hue it generally bears during the summer and autumnal months. In event, however, of the salmon being few, or rising shyly, I would advise that some degree of care and ceremony be taken with what fortune brings to the hook; and that on such occasions more regard be paid to the management of the fish under control than to the non-disturbance of a few yards of stream, where the chances of adding to one's success are at the least extremely doubtful. In these circumstances avoid using undue violence. Should the fish escape, the consciousness of your having done so will only add to the disappointment. There is one precaution particularly to be attended to in respect to a newly run fish, and that is, immediately on hooking it to use a moderate degree of pressure. The salmon will then brave or stem the current, and direct its course upwards; whereas, on tightening the reins, it will frequently do the reverse, and thus not only may a portion of the water in prospect become disturbed, but there is considerable chance, and in some places an absolute certainty, of the fish, if a large one, making its escape." Baggits generally descend the stream, as a rule, when hooked, and no management will make them leave the current; but as they fight sluggishly, and as their loss is of little consequence, provided they do not run away with a good line, the butt may be shown them pretty early, and with a considerable degree of power.

The Gaff is to be used in the following manner:—When the salmon has been thoroughly exhausted by his efforts to free himself from the hook, in which he has been

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opposed by the elastic resistance offered by the rod, he is brought near the bank, still keeping the butt-end of the rod well advanced, and the assistant then proceeds to strike the gaff into the shoulder of the fish, or if he uses the single hook, to insert it into the gill-cover. The latter plan is the least injurious to the beauty of the fish, and in skilful hands will answer every purpose. In all cases, however, the assistant should keep out of sight until the angler is satisfied, by the yielding of the fish, that it is safe for him to approach, for a neglect of this precaution leads to the loss of many a fish. The assistant, or gillie, attempting to strike him before he is spent only makes him desperate; and the efforts to escape, which before this were within bounds and under the control of the angler, are now rendered madly violent. This tries even good tackle too far, and either the hook itself or the gut gives way, or else the hold on the fish actually tears away. Tact and experience are the only safe guides in this delicate point, and without them apparent victory often ends in defeat. Instead of the gaff or hook the landing-net is much used; and in the south, as well as in Wales, is perhaps more in vogue than the gaff. The only objection is its size; but as both must be carried by a gillie, since neither can be well managed by the angler himself, this is really of little consequence. If, however, the angler is either unable or unwilling to obtain an assistant, the hook with sliding-stick is the best instrument for the purpose; but even with its aid he must wait until the fish is nearly spent, and must then draw near a low and shelving shore before he can venture to hook him under the gills. Most rivers, however, present these convenient spots at intervals, and the angler should play his fish until he reaches one, let the distance be what it may, if he wishes to run no unnecessary risk. In all cases when landed, the salmon should at once be knocked on the head, and the hook carefully removed with a penknife.

CHAPTER V.

THE CHIEF RIVERS OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE FISH FOUND IN THEM.

Sect. 1.—Salmon Rivers.

Salmon and Sea-Trout are found in all the four divisions of the three kingdoms, but chiefly in Scotland and Ireland. In Wales there are still some pretty good rivers; and in England they are taken in small numbers in the Wye, the Severn, and the Tamar. The two first of these are, however, partly Welsh; and either of them can be recommended as affording pretty good sport to the angler. The Wye is no doubt the best; the Severn is in progress to become a tolerably good river; but the Tamar is, I believe, becoming daily less and less frequented by this noble fish. For many years past a salmon taken with the fly in the Severn was a rarity, but lately the reat has been tolerably often witnessed, and hopes are held out of making it the head-quarters of the southern salmon-fishers.

In Wales, the Conway, the Usk, the Wye, the Dovey, and the Tivey are the salmon-haunts; and are preserved with great care for the lovers of the sport.

In Ireland, the Shannon is the chief seat of the sport, and affords perhaps more facilities than any other river in the British Isles. Next to it come the Moy and the Erne, the Ban and the Bush, together with the rivers Blackwater and Lee, and the numberless lakes of Killarney, Connemara, &c. Every year, however, these rivers are more cautiously reserved for netting, and the angler, without good introductions, has not the facilities which were formerly at his disposal.

In Scotland, the Tweed almost equals the Shannon in size and opportunities for sport. It however is so much fished as to be to a certain extent spoiled as a salmon river; and it is obliged to hide its naturally higher head before its more northerly rivals, the Shin, the Thurso, and the Esk. The Tay and its tributaries also are first-rate salmon rivers, 50,000 fish being taken on the average in each year by the net. The Findhorn comes next, but is more remarkable for trout than for salmon, which are not so plentiful in that river as they formerly were. The Clyde also has the same repute as a trouting river, but is not much frequented by the salmon. There are numberless smaller rivers throughout Scotland in which salmon are occasionally taken, and in which trout abound; but the above are, I believe, the principal seats of this exciting sport; yet as my experience of their qualities

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is very limited, I cannot pretend to offer any observations on their comparative merits or demerits.

Sect. 2.—Common Trout and Grayling Rivers.

In Scotland, Ireland, and Wales every river swarms with trout in some shape or form varying from the fine, well-formed fish of the best rivers down to the small half-starved ones found in the small rivers which descend from the barren sides of the northern granite mountains. It is, however, quite useless to particularize those which afford the best sport, since their name is legion; and I shall pass on to the English scenes of the rod and fly. These are chiefly the following, commencing with those near London, and proceeding more and more in all directions:—The nearest trouting-river to the metropolis is now the Wandle, since the Thames near London has been almost extinguished as a haunt of this fish; the Colne is also close upon London, and both are well stocked with trout of middling-size, but they are strictly preserved, and good fishing is difficult to obtain, except by interest with the proprietors. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire afford the higher parts of the Thames, the Ouse, the Colne, and the Wick; Berkshire, Hampshire, and Wiltshire present the Kennet, the Lambourn, the Test, the Itchin, and the Avon; Dorsetshire and Devon are remarkable for the Frome, the Axe, the Charr, the Tamar, the Dart, the Ex, the Tyd, the Teign, and the Tarridge—all of them good trouting rivers; whilst the borders of Wales afford the Teme, the Wye, the Lugg, the Usk, the Froome, and some others remarkable for fine trout and grayling. Proceeding towards the north, we find good trouting-rivers in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and the adjacent counties of Durham, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Northumberland, where the Trent, the Erewash, the Dee, the Dove, the Derwent, the Ribble, the Swale, the Wharfe, the Tees, and the Wear employ numberless rods in each succeeding season. To these must be added, as part of the same district, the Coquet, the Tyne, the Aln, and the various lakes of Westmoreland, with their tributaries, all of which are full of fine trout, and may be expected to please the taste of the most fastidious angler, as well as to gratify the eye of the admirers of the beauties of nature.

Sect. 3.—Bottom-Fishing Rivers.

The Thames, the Lee, the Medway, and the New River, near London, the Kentish and Dorsetshire Stours, the Ouse, the Cam, the Humber, the Severn, the Warwickshire Avon, and the Isis, are the chief seats of bottom-fishing; together with the preserved artificial waters sprinkled throughout England in the ornamental grounds of our nobility and gentry. They are, however, so numerous that an extended list would occupy too great a space, and the limits which can be assigned to the present subject forbid my going further into the scenes of the angler's passion, which is so strongly developed in the votaries of the art as to be only described with propriety by that word. Those who desire more minute information upon this, as well as other points connected with the rod, I must refer to the practical works of Messrs. Stoddart, Blacker, Ephemera, and Salter, who, together, will enlighten him upon all the branches of the subject.

CHAPTER VI.

EXPENSES OF FISHING, AND LAWS RELATING TO INLAND FISHERIES.

Sect. 1.—Expenses of Fishing.

The chief expense of fishing is the tackle, which may be made to cost any sum from three pounds to almost any amount. The average cost, however, of a complete outfit will not be more than twenty pounds, if due economy is used in procuring fly-making materials. If, however, the angler is extravagant, he may easily spend from 50*l.* to 100*l.* in rods and tackle. Beyond this the expense is only in procuring tickets for fishing, and travelling expenses. The tickets vary from ten shillings to ten pounds per month, according to the nature of the sport and the locality.

Sect. 2.—Laws Relating to Inland Fisheries.

The Lord of a Manor having the soil on both sides of a river has the right to the fish; besides which, there are three kinds of right to fish:—1. Free Fishing, which is an exclusive right to fish in a public

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river by royal franchise. 2. SEVERAL FISHING, giving an exclusive right to fish in the soil of another by grant from such owner, and 3. COMMON OF PISCARY, which is a liberty to fish with others in a river the soil of which belongs to another. Besides which, every one has a right to take fish found upon the sea-shore between high and low water mark. By the Act 24 & 25 Vict., c. 96, s. 24, the taking of fish in water situate in land belonging to a dwelling-house is a misdemeanour, and if such water is private property, or if there is a private right of fishing in it, the person taking fish in it shall, on conviction, pay such sum not exceeding five pounds, over and above the value of the fish, as the justice shall seem meet. But this does not apply to angling during the daytime. Tackle of fishers may be seized if offending against the provisions of this act.

Sec. 26.—Provides penalties for stealing oyster-broods.

By the Malicious Injuries Consolidation Act, 24 & 25 Vict., c. 97, the breaking down of the dam of a fishery, or POISONING FISH, is made punishable. There are also certain local acts affecting the Thames, Medway, Tweed, and other rivers which limit the size of mesh to be used, the size of fish which may legally be taken, and the close times when they may not be taken.

THE LAW AS TO SALMON FISHERIES was consolidated in 1861 by 24 & 25 Vict., c. 109, its sections being as follows:—

Sec. 1.—Title.

Sec. 2.—Application confined to England, and not to extend to the river Tweed.

Sec. 3.—Commencement of Act.

Sec. 4.—Definition of terms used.

Sec. 5—7.—Penalty for poisoning waters.

Sec. 8.—Penalty for fishing with lights, spears, &c.

Sec. 9.—Penalty for using roe as bait.

Sec. 10.—Prescribes net to be used.

Sec. 11.—Interdicts fixed engines.

Sec. 12.—Interdicts certain dams.

Sec. 13.—Penalty for not erecting gratings at mouths of artificial waters.

Sec. 14.—Taking unclean fish.

Sec. 15.—Taking salmon fry.

Sec. 16.—Disturbing spawning fish.

Sec. 17.—Fixing close time between Sep. 1 and Feb. 1, except that it shall be lawful to fish with rod between September 1 and November 1, under penalty not exceeding five pounds for each salmon caught.

Sec. 18.—Home office may extend or alter close time.

Sec. 19.—Penalty for selling fish during close time.

Sec. 20.—Fixed engines must be removed during close time.

Sec. 21.—Weekly close time ordered.

Sec. 22.—Free passage through traps must be left during weekly close time.

Sec. 23, 24.—Proprietors may make fish-passes to existing dams with consent of Home office, first giving notice.

Sec. 25.—All future dams to have fish-passes.

Sec. 26.—Defines the supply of water to fish passes.

Sec. 27.—Free gaps, and their mode of construction.

Sec. 28.—Orders free gaps in weirs.

Sec. 29.—Defines the boxes and cribs which may be put in fishing weirs and mill dams.

Sec. 30.—Spur walls in fishing weirs.

Sec. 31.—Home office to have the superintendence of fisheries.

Sec. 32.—Inspectors to report annually to Parliament.

Sec. 33.—Justices to appoint conservators.

Sec. 34.—Justices may grant search-warrant on suspicion.

Sec. 35.—Recovery of penalties.

Sec. 36.—Offenders on rivers between two counties may be tried in either.

Sec. 37.—Where offences on sea coast to be tried.

Sec. 38.—Permits dredging.

Sec. 39, and schedule repeal certain acts.

It was soon found necessary to amend this law, and in 1865 the Act 28 & 29 Vict., c. 121, was passed, the sections of which are as follows, independently of the preamble:—

Sec. 1.—Short title, showing that this Act, together with that of 1861, may be considered as the present law relating to salmon-fishery in England.

Sec. 2.—Construction of Act.

Sec. 3.—Definition of terms.

Sec. 4.—Power to justices to form districts.

Sec. 5.—Settles limits of fishery districts.

Sec. 6.—Appointment of conservators.

Sec. 7.—Committee of fishery district.

Sec. 8.—Application for joint committee.

Sec. 9.—Appointment of fishing committee.

Sec. 10.—Notice of ditto.

Sec. 11.—Proceedings of joint fishing committee.

Sec. 12.—Meeting of ditto.

Sec. 13.—Dissolution of ditto.

Sec. 14.—Ex-officio member of board.

Sec. 15.—Tenure of office by conservators.

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Sec. 16.—Notice of appointment of conservators.
Sec. 17.—Cesser of power of ditto.
Sec. 18.—Rules as to objections and evidence.
Sec. 19.—Provision as to common estuary.
Sec. 20.—Alterations of fishing district.
Sec. 21 to 32.—Board of conservators and their officers.
Sec. 33 to 38.—As to Licences.
Sec. 39 to 44.—Fixed engines.
Sec. 45.—Appeal from decision of special commissioners.
Sec. 46 to 55.—Appointment, powers, &c. of commissioners.
Sec. 56.—When hard labour instead of penalty can be awarded.
Sec. 57.—Minimum penalties.
Sec. 58.—Forfeiture of nets, &c.
Sec. 59.—Limitation of time for compensation for fish-pass.
Sec. 60.—Consent of commissioners necessary for artificial propagation of salmon.
Sec. 61.—As to disqualification of justices.
Sec. 62.—Payment of penalties to conservators in certain cases.
Sec. 63.—River Esk included within limits of Act.
Sec. 64.—Partial application to trout in salmon rivers.
Sec. 65.—As to exportation.
Sec. 66.—Appeal to quarter sessions, schedules of licence duties, and forms of notice.

Scotch Salmon Laws.

The Acts now in force in Scotland for the preservation of salmon are 25 & 26 Vict., c. 97 (1862), annexed by 26 & 27 Vict., c. 30 (1863), and by 27 and 28 Vict., c. 118 (1864). The commissioners appointed under these acts have made certain bye-laws which must be studied by those who wish to know the exact local conditions of any river. They are given at length, as well as the whole law of English and Scotch salmon fisheries, in Baker's "Laws relating to Salmon Fisheries," published by H. Cox, 10, Wellington-street, Strand.

Irish Salmon Laws.

The Acts as to Irish fisheries are 5 & 6 Vict., c. 106; 11 & 12 Vict., c. 92; 13 & 14 Vict., c. 88; and 26 & 27 Vict., c. 114.

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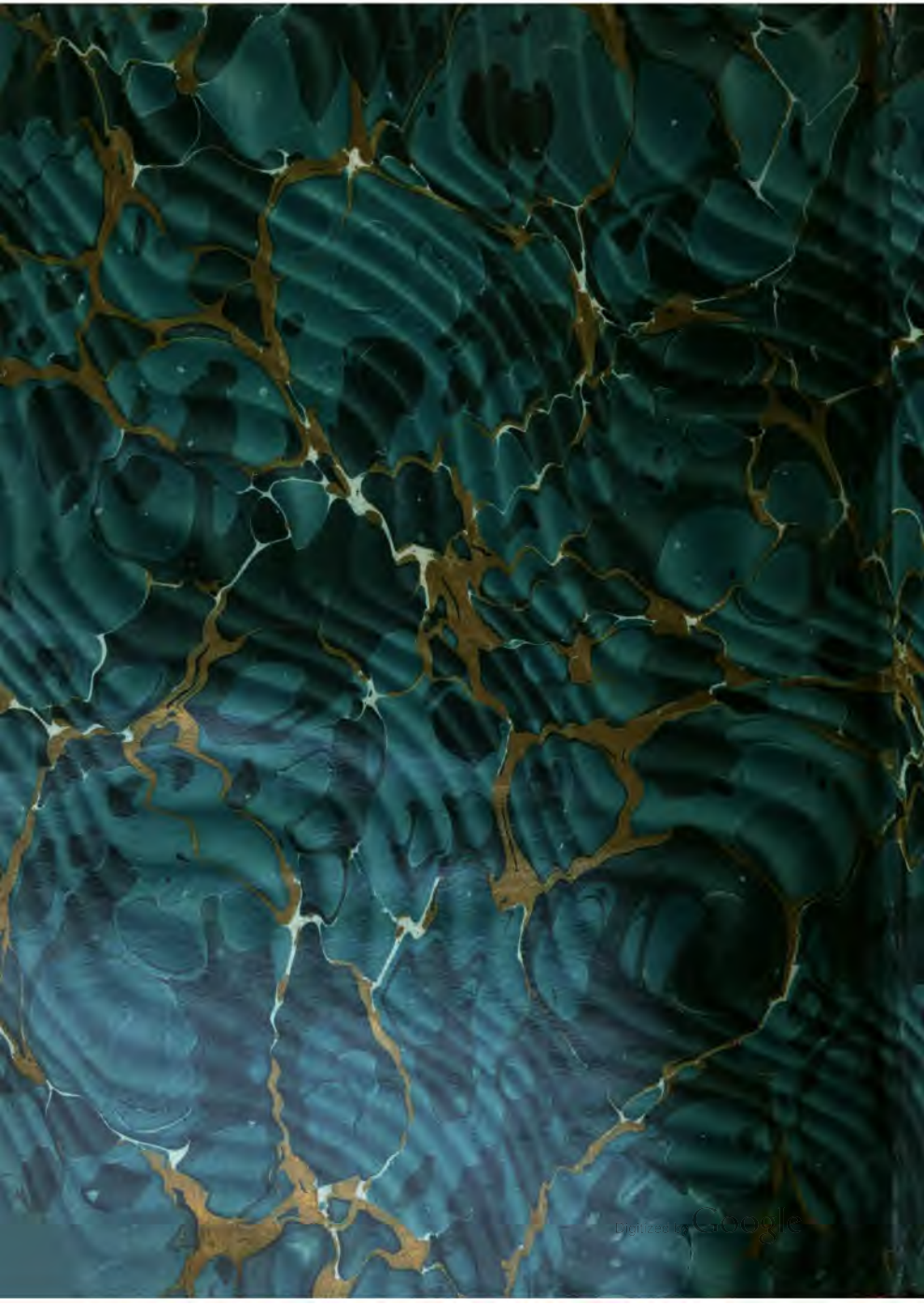
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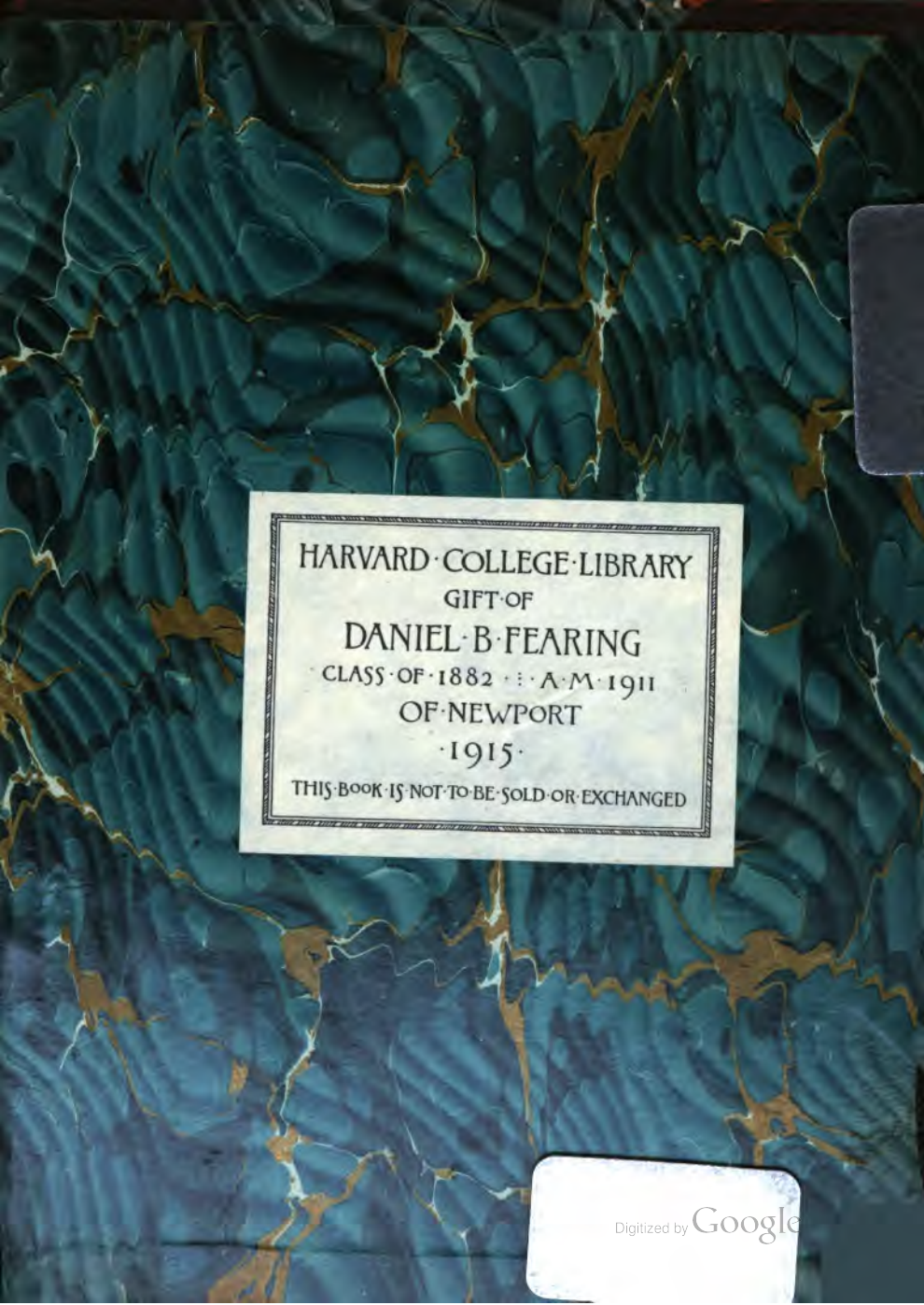
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